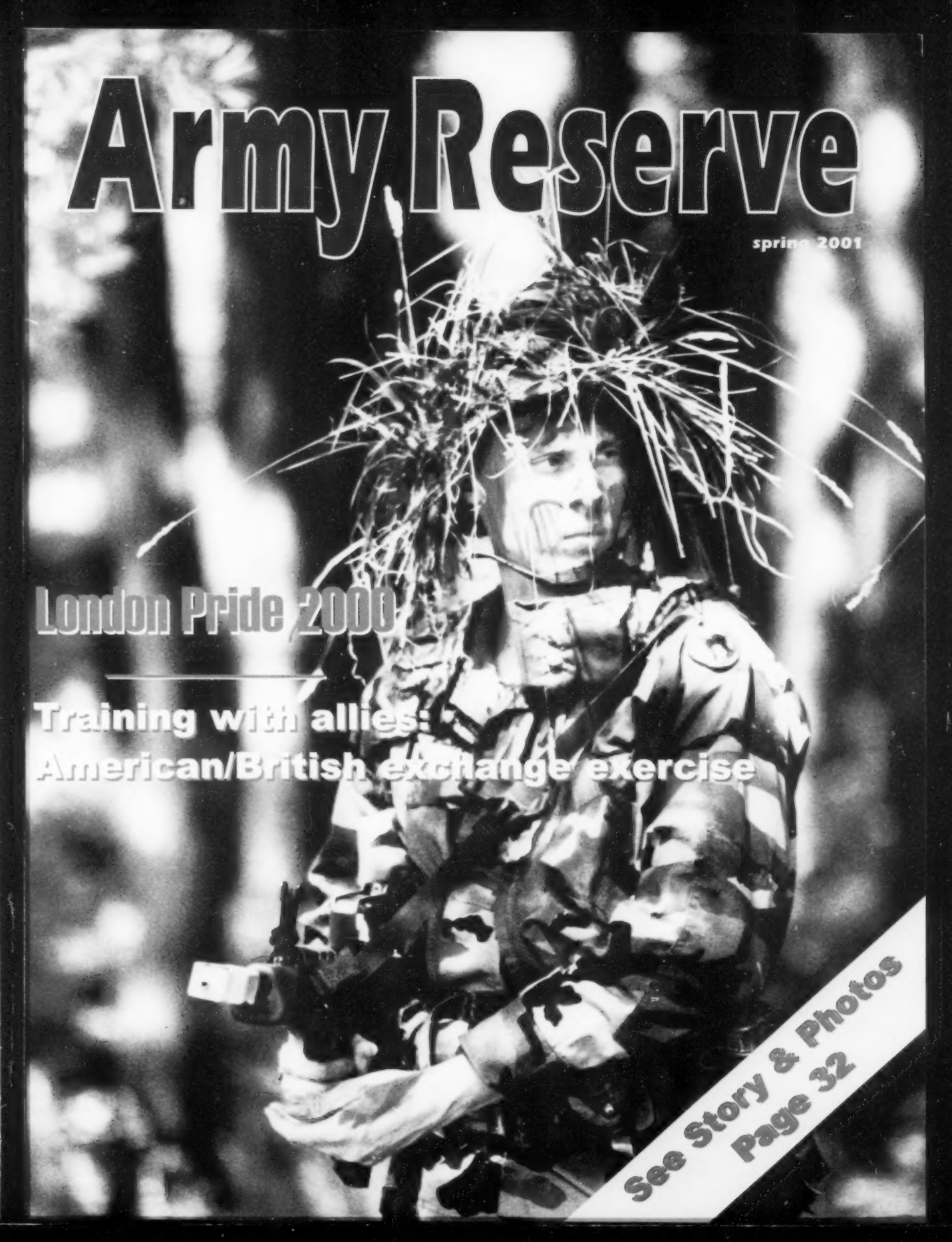
Army Reserve

spring 2001



London Pride 2000

Training with allies: American/British exchange exercise

See Story & Photos Page 32

Army Reserve

Volume 47, Number 1, Spring 2001
Since 1954. America's largest circulating military magazine

Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes
Chief, Army Reserve
Col. Gary M. Profit
Director, Public Affairs & Liaison Directorate
Al Schilf
Chief, Public Affairs Branch
Master Sgt. Vicki L. Washington
Editor-in-Chief

Army Reserve magazine is an authorized Department of the Army publication, published quarterly by the Chief, U.S. Army Reserve, DAAR-ZXP-PA, 400 Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20310-2400 in accordance with Section 10210, Title 10, USC. The Secretary of Defense has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of public business as required by law. Use of funds for printing this publication was approved by the Secretary of the Army on Sept. 2, 1986, IAW provisions of AR 25-30. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of the Army or the Chief, Army Reserve, nor should they be construed as official policy or directive in nature. Local reproduction of all materials is approved, except for copyrighted articles or photos.

Army Reserve magazine invites articles, story ideas, photographs and other material of interest to members of the U.S. Army Reserve. Manuscripts and other correspondence for the editor should be addressed to CHIEF ARMY RESERVE, ATTN: ***Army Reserve*** Magazine, 2400 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC 20310-2400; telephone (703) 601-0854 or DSN329-0854,e-mail USARmag@ocar.army.pentagon.mil or fax (703) 601-0836. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs will not be returned. Query by letter.

For Change of Address, do not write the magazine. TPU soldiers should notify their SIDPERS-RC clerk. Members of the IRR and IMA should contact their Personnel Management Team at AR-PERSCOM, 1 Reserve Way, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200. AGRs should contact their PMO/PMNCO. Paid subscribers should forward their address change to the Superintendent of Documents, Attn: Mail List Branch SSOM, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Special military distribution recipients may write the editor directly.

Army Reserve magazine is distributed free of charge to members of the United States Army Reserve. Circulation is approximately 450,000. Paid subscriptions are available for $14.00 per year domestic, $17.50 foreign. Single copy price is $3.75 domestic, $4.69 foreign. Mail a personal check or money order payable to the Superintendent of Documents to: New Orders, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954, or fax your order to (202) 512-2233. Visa and MasterCard are accepted.

Army Reserve magazine online
www.army.mil/usar/armag/armag.htm

News Updates

6 ARRTC dedicates new dormitory
8 Ft. McCoy signs agreement with Ho-Chunk nation
9 DoD looks at Gulf War-related health care issues
10 65th RSC builds new K-Span buildings for USARSO
11 Reservists face 'commissary challenge' for 2001
TRICARE offers online information
12 Army Reserve women make history
13 Increased SGLI coverage made available
Army Reserve offers tuition assistance
13 SGMs hold conference, address soldier issues
61 USARC gets new satellite communication system
62 Reserve Command seeks military artifacts

Features

18 Ten Years After the Storm
Honoring 14th QM soldiers killed in Scud attack
20 Army Reserve Night
GMU Patriots honor Gulf War veterans
22 Keeper Of The Keys
Unlocking father's military history during deployment
26 Rails To Trails
Reservists benefit from joint service project
28 Frontier Warrior
Army components train together, test critical skills
30 Dressing For The Occasion
Chemical ops specialists don "blue moon suit"
32 Exercise London Pride
Army Reservists train with British counterparts

Features cont.—

35 **Efficiency Test Competition**
19th TAACOM hosts German Armed Forces

36 **Combat Medics**
Reservists 'take the plunge' during training

37 **Special Operations Training**
Taking a 'dip' the hard way

38 **65th RSC Training**
Unit hones skills stripping vehicles for spare parts

39 **Golden Eagle 2000**
Finance exercise 'pays off'

40 **From Fort To Port**
The 1179th DSB makes it happen

41 **Wilderness Center Tamed**
Hurricane-delayed projects help engineers

42 **7th ARCOM**
Technology key to Army Reserve training

People

44 **"Head In The Clouds"**
Reservist uses hot air balloon to spread message

46 **Recruiter Of Excellence Award**
Outstanding recruiters named for 2000

48 **Pursuing Olympic Dream**
Reservist gets shot at steeplechase team

48 **An Army Of One**
Serving country leads to fame for combat medic

49 **Taking Charge**
Reservist leaps into TRANSCOM transition

50 **Pursuing Olympic Dream**
Reservist gets shot at steeplechase team

51 **Global Perspective**
IMA officer completes 35th tour of duty

52 **True Courage**
Army Reserve family battles acute illness

53 **Community Involvement**
Reservists support annual Wheelchair Games

Kudos

54 **Uncommon Hero**
Reservist risks own life to save another

56 **Soldier's Medal**
Change allows more reservists to earn award

43 **256th Serves Community**
Citizen soldiers provide medical care to Ohio children

56 **Lending A Hand**
Fort Hunter Liggett staff assists local VFW

57 **MP Rodeo**
812th excels at first annual event

Departments

4 **From the CAR**

5 **From the CSM**

16 **From AR-PERSCOM**
ROPMA changes the method used for MRD determination

23 **Desert Shield/Desert Storm: A look Back**

24 **Army Reserve History**

58 **Snapshots**

61 **Punzilla**

Photos by Paul Adams, 81st RSC

Front Cover: Sergeant Christopher Layne, 326th Chemical Company, participates in patrolling exercises with his British counterparts during Exercise London Pride 2000. Back Cover: Staff Sgt. Johnny Little, 326th Chemical Co., leads a squad of U.S soldiers and British troopers to a decontamination site for Lanes training.

From the Commander

When you see an Army Reservist, you see America

Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes

There are many reasons why I am proud to serve as an Army Reserve soldier — and why I am proud of all of you who serve, too.

I am proud of all the Army Reserve men and women who served our Nation so well in peace and in war, and who gave us the magnificent legacy we have today as we meet our own challenges.

I am proud of all that this generation of Army Reservists has accomplished. Army Reserve soldiers are achieving the highest readiness levels in our history, we have been called upon more than ever before and yet we have never failed to accomplish the mission, we are constantly evolving and transforming our force into something better.

Let me just discuss one thing in a bit more detail, our rich diversity and what that means for all of us and for our country.

Today's Army Reserve is the most diverse and most representative of the United States of all the Reserve Components of our Armed Forces.

Minorities make up more than 40 percent of the total Army Reserve. Our officer corps represents 45 percent of the minority officers of all the Reserve Components. We have 57 percent of the African American officers in all the Reserve Components in the Army Reserve.

Almost a quarter of our force consists of women soldiers, in ranks of private, NCO and officer. We have more women commissioned officers than the Active Army, even though we're about 60 percent smaller.

We have a larger proportion of female general officers than any service or component. That number of female generals may increase soon. The President has nominated Col. Coral Wong Pietsch for brigadier general. If confirmed by the Senate, this experienced and dedicated Army Reserve officer will become The Army's first Asian Pacific American woman general.

Some may think Col. Pietsch is a symbol, just as they may think Spec. Carlos Perez or Command Sgt. Maj. Mary Starmer or Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jerry Listecky or Maj. Gen. Bob Smith is a symbol. In a way they are, but not in the way you may think.

They are not symbols because of their gender or race or religion or the homelands of their ancestors. But they — and more than 205,000 other Army Reservists just like them — are symbols of the very best of what America is and what it hopes to be.

Army Reservists are living symbols of the promise of America, of a land where everyone has a chance to serve and to succeed, where everyone's contributions are wanted and appreciated.

I do not think we could be the great Army Reserve that we are if we did otherwise. We recognize our differences, we respect the cultures and backgrounds that make all of us unique but we especially rely on what each of us brings to the force for the good of all.

Our diversity truly is our strength and we show this strength everywhere in America. That's easy for us to do because we are everywhere in America.

Often we are the only Army presence in Hometown, U.S.A. We represent our Army very, very well, from American Samoa to Orlando, Florida, from Tacoma Washington, to Washington, DC.

What we mean to America came to me vividly when I attended the ceremony on Feb. 25 in Greensburg, Pa., to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Scud missile

See CAR, page 60

Photo by Lt. Col. Randy Pullen

Master Sgt. Celina Sanchez (left) explains the Army Reserve passport to Maj. Gen. Plewes at the 2001 Reserve Officers Association Mid-Winter Conference. Sanchez and Mr. George Paxton (right), both of the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve, joined other volunteers to staff OCAR's Army Reserve exhibit at the ROA conference. The passports were used to encourage attendees to visit all the Army Reserve exhibits at the conference: each exhibit had a different stamp and when all stamps were collected, a small gift would be earned.

APFT policy changes, standards remain same

Command Sgt. Maj. Alex R. Lackey

In March 1999 Maj. Gen Thomas Plewes, Chief, Army Reserve signed policy letters changing the Troop Program Unit (TPU) Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) from an annual to a semi-annual test for the following reasons:

* The Army Reserve's increased role and missions with the draw down of the total force.

* Frequency of short notice mobilizations due to major regional conflicts and operations other than war.

* To ensure Reservists were physically and mentally capable to meet challenges on any given day.

* To support the "One Army standard" philosophy.

* To establish and maintain a year round fitness program.

* To increase the success rates for soldiers attending professional development courses.

Since that change took place we have seen mixed results. Because of some of these results, Maj. Gen. Plewes has set a new policy. The TPU APFT for soldiers has changed from a Semi-annual requirement back to an annual requirement.

Maj. Gen. Plewes states in his policy letter dated January 19, 2001, " Feedback from the field indicates that the testing program has not produced increased physical fitness and has used precious time that might be better used to increase operational readiness."

Changing the policy back to an annual requirement places emphasis on the fact that the APFT is only one part of a unit's total physical fitness program. The commander and the noncommissioned officers are responsible for insuring that their individual soldiers meet the standards set forth in AR 350-41 and FM 21-20.

The regulation states in paragraph 9.8,b2 "Commanders may administer the APFT as often as they wish (for record or practice); however, they must specify beforehand when the results are for record purposes."

The intent of a physical fitness program is to sustain adequate physical fitness. Accordingly, all soldiers (Active, Guard and Reserve) should be able to take and pass the APFT at any time. The APFT is the commander's tool for measuring minimum physical fitness. He may use that tool as often as necessary to ensure the unit is maintaining minimum physical fitness standards.

Incentives and corrective action are important tools in maintaining physical fitness. Soldiers who score more than 270 points should be commended for outstanding performance. Soldiers who repeatedly fail the APFT will be either barred from re-enlistment or processed for separation from the service. A repetitive failure occurs when a record test is taken and failed, the soldier is provided adequate time and assistance to improve his or her performance, and failure occurs again.

Staying physically fit provides you with benefits in addition to staying in the Army. It will increase your quality of life, help you maintain your weight and reduce your risk of certain health problems.

Although the APFT has returned to an annual event, physical fitness remains the foundation for individual and unit combat readiness. It begins with our officer and noncommissioned officer leadership and must be an integral part of every soldier's life.

A note from the CSM

"As part of my on-going effort to recognize outstanding Army Reserve soldiers I have started planning for the 2001 Army Reserve Soldier/NCO of the Year Board. The Board is scheduled for August 16-19 and will be held in the Washington, DC area.

One soldier and NCO from the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve, Army Reserve Personnel Command, U.S. Army Reserve Center, Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command, 7th Army Reserve Command, and 9th Regional Support Command, will compete for the title of 2001 Army Reserve Soldier of the Year or 2001 Army Reserve NCO of the Year.

I challenge each command to send me your best."

ARRTC dedicates new dormitory

By Lou Ann Mittelstaedt

FORT McCOY (Army Reserve Installation), Wis.—Quality training opportunities already available at the Army Reserve Readiness Training Center (ARRTC), Fort McCoy, Wis., are complemented now with quality billeting space for students attending courses there. The ARRTC opened Beauford T. Anderson Hall, a $15.3 million 218-room dormitory, during dedication ceremonies held Dec. 15.

The dormitory was memorialized in honor of Technical Sgt. Beauford T. "Andy" Anderson, a Wisconsin native who received the Medal of Honor for service with the Army's 96th Infantry Division during World War II. Anderson later served as a warrant officer and commissioned officer in the Army Reserve.

Internal areas of the building were further dedicated in the honor of previous Chiefs, Army Reserve.

Anderson's only son, James, said his father did not talk to him about his war experiences. "He said that the real heroes of the war were those who had paid the ultimate price," James Anderson said, adding that he was honored that his father's deeds and memories would be preserved for eternity through the facility.

Chief of the Army Reserve Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes said Anderson truly was a "great citizen soldier."

"Like every soldier, he understood the value of good training and how to be a good trainer and leader," Plewes said.

Photo by Allan J. Harding

The ribbon is cut at the dedication of the new ARRTC dormitory. In the front row (left to right) are Barbara Anderson, Col. Jon Robinett, James Anderson and Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes. In the back row (left to right) are Command Sgt. Maj. Clifford Fargason of ARRTC and Command Sgt. Maj. Alex Lackey of the Office Chief, Army Reserve.

"It all begins with training," he said. "That's why the Army Reserve has devoted the resources we have to creating a training facility at Fort McCoy. Our soldiers deserve the best facilities we can provide them, and they deserve the best training we can give them. That's exactly what we have here."

"We have a state of the art Army complex," Plewes said. "We take the lead in training innovations that the rest of the Army pays attention to and follows."

The dormitory is Phase II of a total ARRTC construction package that was begun in the early 1990s. Phase I of the project, a 113,500-square-foot classroom, administrative facility constructed at a cost of $10.5 million, was completed in 1992.

Construction of the $15.3 million dormitory is significant to students who train at the ARRTC as well as to the Army Reserve leadership, according to Col. Jon Robinett, ARRTC commandant.

Photo by Allan J. Harding

Barbara and James Anderson receive a picture of Beauford T. "Andy" Anderson from Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes. The same picture, which depicts the elder Anderson receiving his Medal of Honor and the accompanying citation, hangs in the ARRTC Dormitory.

Guests tour the new facility to take a look at one of the 214 student rooms that will be available for billeting at the new ARRTC dormitory. Furniture and furnishings are representative examples only.

As the first of its kind in the Army Reserve inventory, the new dormitory is a "state of the art facility, a home away from home for our students," Robinett said.

"It signifies the continued dedication of our senior leadership, both military and civilian, to improve the quality of life for our soldiers, and helps to make the ARRTC the premier training institution capable of meeting the ever-growing needs of our military and civilian work force," Robinett said.

With more than 11,000 students from the Reserve Force training there each year to "go to work," Robinett said the ARRTC often is called "The Schoolhouse of the Army Reserve."

"The dormitory complements the existing facility

See ARRTC, page 10

At a glance: The Army Reserve Readiness Training Center

ARRTC Mission: Established at Fort McCoy in the late 1970s, the ARRTC is the only institution designed specifically to train Army Reserve personnel. Its primary mission is to design, develop and implement. Army Reserve pre-mobilization and functional training for the military and civilian members of the full-time work force and Troop Program Unit members.

Phase I: 113,500-square-foot classroom/administrative facility constructed at a cost of $10.5 million. Completed in 1992. Consists of space for up to 23 classrooms, an auditorium which seats up to 450 people, a self-development center, administrative space for as many as 190 staff and faculty, storage areas, and an installation-operated dining facility.

Phase II: 106,272 square feet; construction cost $15.3 million; opened December 2000. Facility is constructed in the shape of an 'X', and has four, three-story wings. Each floor is color coded differently. The core of the building, located at the intersection of the four wings, contains common areas. The dormitory is attached to the existing facility.

Rooms: 218 available (4 are senior occupancy rooms). All have private bath, full-size bed, recliner, microwave, refrigerator, TV/VCR and desk and chair.

Common areas: Administration and reception area, elevator (1), Laundry rooms (3), study rooms (3), day-rooms (3). Picnic tables and grills located outside.

ARRTC dedicates new dormitory

By Lou Ann Mittelstaedt

FORT McCOY (Army Reserve Installation), Wis.—Quality training opportunities already available at the Army Reserve Readiness Training Center (ARRTC), Fort McCoy, Wis., are complemented now with quality billeting space for students attending courses there. The ARRTC opened Beauford T. Anderson Hall, a $15.3 million 218-room dormitory, during dedication ceremonies held Dec. 15.

The dormitory was memorialized in honor of Technical Sgt. Beauford T. "Andy" Anderson, a Wisconsin native who received the Medal of Honor for service with the Army's 96th Infantry Division during World War II. Anderson later served as a warrant officer and commissioned officer in the Army Reserve.

Internal areas of the building were further dedicated in the honor of previous Chiefs, Army Reserve.

Anderson's only son, James, said his father did not talk to him about his war experiences. "He said that the real heroes of the war were those who had paid the ultimate price," James Anderson said, adding that he was honored that his father's deeds and memories would be preserved for eternity through the facility.

Chief of the Army Reserve Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes said Anderson truly was a "great citizen soldier."

"Like every soldier, he understood the value of good training and how to be a good trainer and leader," Plewes said.

Photo by Allan J. Harding

The ribbon is cut at the dedication of the new ARRTC dormitory. In the front row (left to right) are Barbara Anderson, Col. Jon Robinett, James Anderson and Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes. In the back row (left to right) are Command Sgt. Maj. Clifford Fargason of ARRTC and Command Sgt. Maj. Alex Lackey of the Office Chief, Army Reserve.

"It all begins with training," he said. "That's why the Army Reserve has devoted the resources we have to creating a training facility at Fort McCoy. Our soldiers deserve the best facilities we can provide them, and they deserve the best training we can give them. That's exactly what we have here."

"We have a state of the art Army complex," Plewes said. "We take the lead in training innovations that the rest of the Army pays attention to and follows."

The dormitory is Phase II of a total ARRTC construction package that was begun in the early 1990s. Phase I of the project, a 113,500-square-foot classroom, administrative facility constructed at a cost of $10.5 million, was completed in 1992.

Construction of the $15.3 million dormitory is significant to students who train at the ARRTC as well as to the Army Reserve leadership, according to Col. Jon Robinett, ARRTC commandant.

Photo by Allan J. Harding

Barbara and James Anderson receive a picture of Beauford T. "Andy" Anderson from Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes. The same picture, which depicts the elder Anderson receiving his Medal of Honor and the accompanying citation, hangs in the ARRTC Dormitory.

Guests tour the new facility to take a look at one of the 214 student rooms that will be available for billeting at the new ARRTC dormitory. Furniture and furnishings are representative examples only.

As the first of its kind in the Army Reserve inventory, the new dormitory is a "state of the art facility, a home away from home for our students," Robinett said.

"It signifies the continued dedication of our senior leadership, both military and civilian, to improve the quality of life for our soldiers, and helps to make the ARRTC the premier training institution capable of meeting the ever-growing needs of our military and civilian work force," Robinett said.

With more than 11,000 students from the Reserve Force training there each year to "go to work," Robinett said the ARRTC often is called "The Schoolhouse of the Army Reserve."

"The dormitory complements the existing facility

See ARRTC, page 10

At a glance: The Army Reserve Readiness Training Center

ARRTC Mission: Established at Fort McCoy in the late 1970s, the ARRTC is the only institution designed specifically to train Army Reserve personnel. Its primary mission is to design, develop and implement. Army Reserve pre-mobilization and functional training for the military and civilian members of the full-time work force and Troop Program Unit members.

Phase I: 113,500-square-foot classroom/administrative facility constructed at a cost of $10.5 million. Completed in 1992. Consists of space for up to 23 classrooms, an auditorium which seats up to 450 people, a self-development center, administrative space for as many as 190 staff and faculty, storage areas, and an installation-operated dining facility.

Phase II: 106,272 square feet; construction cost $15.3 million; opened December 2000. Facility is constructed in the shape of an 'X', and has four, three-story wings. Each floor is color coded differently. The core of the building, located at the intersection of the four wings, contains common areas. The dormitory is attached to the existing facility.

Rooms: 218 available (4 are senior occupancy rooms). All have private bath, full-size bed, recliner, microwave, refrigerator, TV/VCR and desk and chair.

Common areas: Administration and reception area, elevator (1), Laundry rooms (3), study rooms (3), day-rooms (3). Picnic tables and grills located outside.

Fort McCoy forges special relationship with Ho-Chunk nation

FORT McCOY (Army Reserve Installation), Wis.—A government-to-government relationship regarding tribal consultation was established between the Ho-Chunk Nation and the U.S. Army at Fort McCoy, Wis. with last fall's signing of a historic memorandum of understanding. November is celebrated nationally as Native American Indian Heritage Month.

Ho-Chunk Nation President Pro Tem Clarence Pettibone and Fort McCoy Installation Commander Col. Michael R. Staszak signed the memorandum during a ceremony held in the atrium of the Ho-Chunk Nation Executive Office Building in Black River Falls, Wis.

The memorandum, initiated by Fort McCoy, seeks to effectively ensure the appropriate treatment of the sacred sites and/or traditional cultural properties of the Ho-Chunk Nation found on land under Army management at Fort McCoy. The Ho-Chunk Nation formerly was known as the Wisconsin Winnebago. It is in keeping with President Clinton's signing of a Presidential Memorandum in April 1994 that reaffirmed the federal government's responsibility to operate within a government-to-government relationship with federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes.

Ft. McCoy Installation Commander, Col. Michael Staszak and Ho-Chunk Nation President Pro Tem Clarence Pettibone sign memorandum.

The president's memorandum established a framework for enhanced understanding and cooperation between the federal government and tribal nations, and commits the federal government to building more effective day-to-day working relationships with tribal governments.

Secretary of Defense William Cohen then issued the Department of Defense (DoD) American Indian and Alaska Native Policy in October 1998. The policy helps DoD protect and preserve Indian religious practices and sites and to accommodate access to and ceremonial use of sacred site locations, and establishes a foundation for developing and strengthening relationships with tribal nations.

"The Ho-Chunk Nation is the sole indigenous society with established cultural affiliation with the land now occupied and managed by the U.S. Army Reserve Command at Fort McCoy," said Dell Greek, who serves as the Native American Coordinator and Cultural Resources Program Manager for the United States Army Reserve Command, of which Fort McCoy is a part.

"We are here today to begin the process that will enable Ho-Chunk elders, traditional religious leaders, and the Ho-Chunk people to once again return to your ancestral lands on Fort McCoy and visit your sacred sites, gather traditional herbs and medicines and perform the religious and ceremonial observances that continue to be the strength of your ancient and proud cultural heritage."

Staszak said signing of the document would enable "land managers at Fort McCoy to take into consideration the traditional cultural properties, sacred sites and other areas of cultural importance to the Ho-Chunk Nation that may be affected during the day-to-day operations of Fort McCoy."

"It is my sincere hope that in the coming years, the people of the Ho-Chunk Nation will regard today as that moment in their long history when Fort McCoy, acknowledging the importance of the traditional religious and cultural practices of the Ho-Chunk people – and in the spirit of cooperation and respect – participated jointly in this event to help preserve the cultural integrity of the Ho-Chunk Nation, thus keeping it intact and thriving into the 21st century."

On behalf of the Ho-Chunk Nation, Pettibone presented a Pendleton blanket and a Ho-Chunk flag to Staszak for the installation in remembrance of the historic event. Staszak presented Pettibone with a handcrafted plaque and a ceramic eagle statue as gifts from the installation to the Ho-Chunk Nation in remembrance of the event.

In keeping with Ho-Chunk tradition, an honor dance was held prior to retreat of the colors, and the event concluded with the invitation to share a meal organized by members of the Blackhawk Legion Auxiliary.

Gulf War Illness

DoD looks to the past to provide guidance for future

By Diana Berardocco

WASHINGTON (February 9, 2001)–As the Army Reserve commemorates the 10-year anniversary of Desert Shield/Desert Storm Gulf War veterans and observers have commented on the war's stunning operational success while others find value in exploring the legacy of the efficient victory and its implications for the future. Perhaps, for the Gulf War veteran, the ultimate commemoration lies in the commitment made by the Defense Department that lessons learned from the Gulf War will be incorporated into health programs to better protect those who will serve in the future.

Among those lessons, particularly for the Reservist, is the importance of maintaining medical and environmental surveillance and medical record-keeping during all deployments, training troops on safety precautions to guard against environmental hazards, providing information about vaccines when they are administered and modernizing equipment to minimize and record false chemical alarms.

Meaningful changes have also been made in the manner in which the DoD communicates with its service members. During and after the war many veterans had unanswered health-related questions about smoke from oil well fires, battlefield exposures to depleted uranium, vaccines and medications, alarms from chemical detectors and incomplete medical records. To remedy that situation, Department of Defense opened the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses, headed by Bernard Rostker. The exhaustive investigation into the incidents that happened on the Gulf War battlefield was undertaken by military and civilian professionals and helped Gulf War veterans to better understand the events of the war and how those events may have affected the health of veterans who served there. Channels of communication were opened to veterans through an extensive outreach program that included 31 town hall meetings and visits to 72 military installations; regular briefings to veteran service organizations that resulted in reaching the organizations' nearly 10 million members; the Internet web site, GulfLINK, and a newsletter, GulfNEWS; interactive e-mail system and a toll-free hotline telephone number staffed with veterans that offers one-to-one assistance to veterans who call with questions. The DoD has gained increased competence in dealing with veterans' health concerns through these new ways of interacting with servicemembers.

As the formal investigation into Gulf War battlefield events came to a close last year, it became apparent to department leadership, veteran service organizations and the Presidential Special Oversight Board that a permanent organization was needed to meet the veterans' current and future deployment health-related concerns. With a broadened scope and more expansive name, the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployment was established in August 2000 to ensure that lessons learned from the Gulf War about medical readiness are applied to current and future military deployments.

"We want to work closely with all entities in DoD that have responsibility for force health protection and health care," said chief of staff Michael Kilpatrick, M.D. "It is critical that those who are deployed understand all aspects of the force health protection process and its individual measures. Our commitment to help Gulf War veterans will continue uninterrupted."

Reservists face a wide range of stressful circumstances and environmental health risks while deployed. To assist them with these challenges, the new organization's most important mission is to provide all those involved in deployments with information concerning non-traditional health threats.

"We believe issues resembling those of the Gulf War may arise from current and future deployments, and without a permanent organization dedicated to working with veterans, the Department of Defense could revisit some adverse Gulf War experiences," said Dale A. Vesser, acting special assistant today.

Vesser, Kilpatrick and other staff members will continue to maintain open communication with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Vesser hopes the new organization will play a key role in working with other DoD organizations to integrate deployment health-related lessons learned into future force health protection doctrine and policy.

Kilpatrick commented that the organization's focus in working with the Reserve and National Guard components is to ensure that servicemembers pre-deployment health is sustained and assessed during and after deployment. In addition, DoD efforts need to address their healthcare concerns adequately post-deployment.

See GULFLINK, page 61

Fort McCoy forges special relationship with Ho-Chunk nation

FORT McCOY (Army Reserve Installation), Wis.—A government-to-government relationship regarding tribal consultation was established between the Ho-Chunk Nation and the U.S. Army at Fort McCoy, Wis. with last fall's signing of a historic memorandum of understanding. November is celebrated nationally as Native American Indian Heritage Month.

Ho-Chunk Nation President Pro Tem Clarence Pettibone and Fort McCoy Installation Commander Col. Michael R. Staszak signed the memorandum during a ceremony held in the atrium of the Ho-Chunk Nation Executive Office Building in Black River Falls, Wis.

The memorandum, initiated by Fort McCoy, seeks to effectively ensure the appropriate treatment of the sacred sites and/or traditional cultural properties of the Ho-Chunk Nation found on land under Army management at Fort McCoy. The Ho-Chunk Nation formerly was known as the Wisconsin Winnebago. It is in keeping with President Clinton's signing of a Presidential Memorandum in April 1994 that reaffirmed the federal government's responsibility to operate within a government-to-government relationship with federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes.

Ft. McCoy Installation Commander, Col. Michael Staszak and Ho-Chunk Nation President Pro Tem Clarence Pettibone sign memorandum.

The president's memorandum established a framework for enhanced understanding and cooperation between the federal government and tribal nations, and commits the federal government to building more effective day-to-day working relationships with tribal governments.

Secretary of Defense William Cohen then issued the Department of Defense (DoD) American Indian and Alaska Native Policy in October 1998. The policy helps DoD protect and preserve Indian religious practices and sites and to accommodate access to and ceremonial use of sacred site locations, and establishes a foundation for developing and strengthening relationships with tribal nations.

"The Ho-Chunk Nation is the sole indigenous society with established cultural affiliation with the land now occupied and managed by the U.S. Army Reserve Command at Fort McCoy," said Dell Greek, who serves as the Native American Coordinator and Cultural Resources Program Manager for the United States Army Reserve Command, of which Fort McCoy is a part.

"We are here today to begin the process that will enable Ho-Chunk elders, traditional religious leaders, and the Ho-Chunk people to once again return to your ancestral lands on Fort McCoy and visit your sacred sites, gather traditional herbs and medicines and perform the religious and ceremonial observances that continue to be the strength of your ancient and proud cultural heritage."

Staszak said signing of the document would enable "land managers at Fort McCoy to take into consideration the traditional cultural properties, sacred sites and other areas of cultural importance to the Ho-Chunk Nation that may be affected during the day-to-day operations of Fort McCoy."

"It is my sincere hope that in the coming years, the people of the Ho-Chunk Nation will regard today as that moment in their long history when Fort McCoy, acknowledging the importance of the traditional religious and cultural practices of the Ho-Chunk people – and in the spirit of cooperation and respect – participated jointly in this event to help preserve the cultural integrity of the Ho-Chunk Nation, thus keeping it intact and thriving into the 21st century."

On behalf of the Ho-Chunk Nation, Pettibone presented a Pendleton blanket and a Ho-Chunk flag to Staszak for the installation in remembrance of the historic event. Staszak presented Pettibone with a handcrafted plaque and a ceramic eagle statue as gifts from the installation to the Ho-Chunk Nation in remembrance of the event.

In keeping with Ho-Chunk tradition, an honor dance was held prior to retreat of the colors, and the event concluded with the invitation to share a meal organized by members of the Blackhawk Legion Auxiliary.

Gulf War Illness

DoD looks to the past to provide guidance for future

By Diana Berardocco

WASHINGTON (February 9, 2001)–As the Army Reserve commemorates the 10-year anniversary of Desert Shield/Desert Storm Gulf War veterans and observers have commented on the war's stunning operational success while others find value in exploring the legacy of the efficient victory and its implications for the future. Perhaps, for the Gulf War veteran, the ultimate commemoration lies in the commitment made by the Defense Department that lessons learned from the Gulf War will be incorporated into health programs to better protect those who will serve in the future.

Among those lessons, particularly for the Reservist, is the importance of maintaining medical and environmental surveillance and medical record-keeping during all deployments, training troops on safety precautions to guard against environmental hazards, providing information about vaccines when they are administered and modernizing equipment to minimize and record false chemical alarms.

Meaningful changes have also been made in the manner in which the DoD communicates with its service members. During and after the war many veterans had unanswered health-related questions about smoke from oil well fires, battlefield exposures to depleted uranium, vaccines and medications, alarms from chemical detectors and incomplete medical records. To remedy that situation, Department of Defense opened the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses, headed by Bernard Rostker. The exhaustive investigation into the incidents that happened on the Gulf War battlefield was undertaken by military and civilian professionals and helped Gulf War veterans to better understand the events of the war and how those events may have affected the health of veterans who served there. Channels of communication were opened to veterans through an extensive outreach program that included 31 town hall meetings and visits to 72 military installations; regular briefings to veteran service organizations that resulted in reaching the organizations' nearly 10 million members; the Internet web site, GulfLINK, and a newsletter, GulfNEWS; interactive e-mail system and a toll-free hotline telephone number staffed with veterans that offers one-to-one assistance to veterans who call with questions. The DoD has gained increased competence in dealing with veterans' health concerns through these new ways of interacting with servicemembers.

As the formal investigation into Gulf War battlefield events came to a close last year, it became apparent to department leadership, veteran service organizations and the Presidential Special Oversight Board that a permanent organization was needed to meet the veterans' current and future deployment health-related concerns. With a broadened scope and more expansive name, the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployment was established in August 2000 to ensure that lessons learned from the Gulf War about medical readiness are applied to current and future military deployments.

"We want to work closely with all entities in DoD that have responsibility for force health protection and health care," said chief of staff Michael Kilpatrick, M.D. "It is critical that those who are deployed understand all aspects of the force health protection process and its individual measures. Our commitment to help Gulf War veterans will continue uninterrupted."

Reservists face a wide range of stressful circumstances and environmental health risks while deployed. To assist them with these challenges, the new organization's most important mission is to provide all those involved in deployments with information concerning non-traditional health threats.

"We believe issues resembling those of the Gulf War may arise from current and future deployments, and without a permanent organization dedicated to working with veterans, the Department of Defense could revisit some adverse Gulf War experiences," said Dale A. Vesser, acting special assistant today.

Vesser, Kilpatrick and other staff members will continue to maintain open communication with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Vesser hopes the new organization will play a key role in working with other DoD organizations to integrate deployment health-related lessons learned into future force health protection doctrine and policy.

Kilpatrick commented that the organization's focus in working with the Reserve and National Guard components is to ensure that servicemembers pre-deployment health is sustained and assessed during and after deployment. In addition, DoD efforts need to address their healthcare concerns adequately post-deployment.

See GULFLINK, page 61

65th RSC new K-Span building for USARSO

By Mr. Pedro Silva

Photos by Angel Green

(Left) Brig. Gen. Collis Phillips, commanding general, 65th RSC hands symbolic key to Col. (P) Stephen Collins, deputy commander for Support, USARSO as Maj. Douglas Culp, MC and Col. Pedro Acosta, 65th RSC DCSEN look on. (Below) Two newly completed K-Span buildings.

FORT BUCHANAN, Puerto Rico—With a snip of a ribbon the 65th Regional Support Command celebrated the grand opening of two K-Span (hanger type) Buildings recently. The ribbon cutting ceremony took place at the Lt. Col. Hernan G. Pesquera U.S. Army Reserve Center in Juana Diaz.

The ceremony signified the formal opening of the facility even though the two buildings still need to be completed before they are transferred over to the U.S. Army Reserve South (USARSO) Theater Equipment and Maintenance Site (TEAMS). The facilities will be used by TEAMS to store and maintain readily available equipment used by USARSO for its missions in Latin America.

The joint venture was undertaken by the 65th RSC as part of its USARSO support mission and as a partnership project to further enhance our joint commitment to our national interests in U.S. Southern Command's (USSOUTHCOM) area of responsibility.

The two-year project was designed by the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, 65th RSC and constructed under the U.S. Army Reserve Troop Labor Program with assets from the 448th Engineer Battalion. It consists of two identical K-Span buildings joined together in the middle by an access hall. The buildings were constructed using the Automatic Building Machine owned by the 65th.

The 448th poured 109 cubic yards of cement to construct the external pad on which the 10,701 square feet facility rests. This air-conditioned facility has over 6,905 square feet of warehouse space to include office space, break rooms, dispatch work area and rest rooms. Each building features separate data lines for computer connections, telephone lines and its own LAN system.

(Mr. Silva, is the Public Affairs Officer for the 65th RSC, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico)

ARRTC, from page 7

by providing a total package," Robinett said.

"That is significant because we can assure leadership throughout the Army Reserve that the work population that trains here is trained in a quality environment that provides minimal training distractions."

The dormitory is attached to the existing facility and will provide students with a "self-contained, one-stop shop" experience for training, he said.

"The students can arrive and have all of those things — their billeting, their classrooms, the Education Center, the dining facility, a mini PX, a barber shop — that students need, with the exception of a gym, under one roof," Robinett said. He added that bus service to the post's well-equipped Rumpel Fitness Center is available on a regular basis. "It will provide greater customer service to the students training here — things that make you feel cared for."

The 214 student rooms in the new facility will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. The four senior occupancy rooms are for use by personnel at the rank of colonel or above or the military/civilian equivalent and can be reserved through the installation's Lodging Office ((608) 388-2107).

And while the primary purpose of the dormitory is to house students attending training at the ARRTC, it also will be made available for conferences when it is not being used to support students, Robinett said.

For more information, visit the ARRTC's Web site at http://www.mccoy.army.mil/arrtc/.

(Ms. Mittelstaedt is with the Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office)

Reservists face commissary 'challenge' for 2001

By Flo Dunn

FORT LEE, Va.—Officials with the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) are issuing a challenge to reserve component members during 2001. Shop regularly in the commissary and they guarantee you and your family will save more than $2,000 in the New Year.

DeCA officials say the key for unlocking the door to savings is the Commissary Privilege Card (DD Form 2529), issued annually to Guard and Reserve members by their units. The card contains 24 blocks to record dates of the 24 authorized visits during the calendar year. Reservists who have not received their Commissary Privilege Card for 2001 should contact their unit immediately. Neither commissaries nor the Defense Commissary Agency issue the cards.

"Gray area" reserve component personnel — those who have retired from the reserves and will be entitled to retired pay at age 60; but who are not yet 60 — also need the Commissary Privilege Card in order to take advantage of their 24 annual commissary visits. Commissary Privilege Cards for "gray area" personnel are mailed annually from locations where their military personnel records are retained.

To be eligible to shop in the commissary, reservists, including "gray area" personnel, and immediate family members need a valid ID card and a current Commissary Privilege Card. Commissary personnel date and initial a block on the card for each visit. Reserve and Guard personnel on active duty and their family members can shop in the commissary as many times as they wish by showing an ID card and active duty orders. During active duty periods, they do not need to show a Commissary Privilege Card to commissary shop.

At the Defense Commissary Agency where the focus is on attracting more authorized shoppers, reserve component personnel are considered a key element in DeCA's customer base. DeCA has sponsored off-site sales particularly for their benefit. The purpose of the sales is to introduce reserve component personnel to the commissary benefit.

Commissary officials plan other off-site sales during 2001 as a way of keeping in touch with all potential customers and to introduce reserve component personnel to the commissary benefit.

DeCA challenges reservists to maximize use of their commissary benefit and reap the rewards.

TRICARE offers online information

By Staff Sgt. Kathleen Rhem

WASHINGTON—TRICARE officials want people to know their Internet home page, www.tricare.osd.mil, is a great first stop for beneficiaries to get information on the program.

The front page is full of the most recent articles about TRICARE from several different news sources on the Internet. A handy A- to-Z drop-down menu at the top of the front page will take visitors to any area of the site they want without a lot of annoying searching from link to link.

Claims processing, the most asked about issue in TRICARE, enjoys a prominent spot on the home page. By clicking on the "CLAIMS Information" button in the upper right edge of the home page, customers will find step-by-step instructions for filing a claim, downloadable forms and answers to frequently asked questions. Other links from this page take people to a list of local claims offices and information on the new Debt Collection Assistance Officer program.

The button "TRICARE Beneficiaries: Understanding Your TRICARE Benefits" on the upper left side of the home page takes Web surfers to the most-hit of the site's 26,000 pages: a TRICARE primer — a page of links that lead to extensive information on every aspect of the program from dental benefits to the Senior Prime demonstration.

From the page, visitors can find the toll-free number for their service region, send a change of address to the Defense Eligibility and Enrollment Reporting System, download enrollment forms, and find a nearby authorized healthcare provider, among other things.

Also within this section is the "Beneficiary Forum," where visitors can ask questions about TRICARE and join in discussions with other beneficiaries. A TRICARE staff member usually answers questions the same day they are posted to the site.

Farther out, officials hope TRICARE beneficiaries will be able to make appointments and refill prescriptions online.

(Staff Sgt. Rhem is with the American Forces Press Service)

Women's History Month

March marked historic period for Army Reserve women

By Lt. Col. Randy Pullen

(From left) Brig. Gen. Karol Kennedy, Deputy Commanding General, 99th Regional Support Command; Brig. Gen. Donna Barbisch, Deputy Commander, Clinical Services, 3d Medical Command: and Col. Coral Pietsch, Chief Judge (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), U.S. Army Legal Services Agency.

WASHINGTON (March 19, 2001)— This year's Women's History Month was especially historic for women in the Army Reserve.

Among the many historic "firsts" this March was the nomination of an Army Reserve woman to become the Army's first Asian Pacific American woman general and the selection of the first African-American woman for an Army Reserve general officer assignment.

The month kicked off with Col. Coral Wong Pietsch being nominated for promotion to brigadier general March 1. If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, she will become the Army's first Asian Pacific American woman general, as well as the first woman general in the history of the Army Judge Advocate General Corps. Pietsch serves as the Chief Judge (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), U.S. Army Legal Services Agency, Falls Church, Va.

A flurry of firsts came two weeks later on March 14, with the release of the 2001 General Officer Assignment Advisory Board list. Among these was the selection of Col. Carrie L. Nero to become Chief Nurse, 3rd Medical Command, Decatur, Ga., a brigadier general assignment. She will become the first black woman, as well as the first black woman nurse, to serve in a brigadier general assignment in the Army Reserve.

Nero was joined by several other women making history in March 2001, one of whom was the person she is replacing at the 3rd MEDCOM.

Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy has been selected to take command of the 99th Regional Support Command (RSC), Oakdale, Pa., a major general assignment. She will become the first woman to command an RSC, a major Army Reserve command. There are 12 RSCs in the continental United States, Puerto Rico and Hawaii and one Army Reserve Command (ARCOM), an equivalent organization, in Europe. The 99th RSC commands Army Reserve units in Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia.

Brig. Gen. Donna F. Barbisch has been selected to become the Military Assistant (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), Washington, DC, a major general assignment. She will become the first Army Reserve nurse to serve in a major general position and also the first Army Reserve nurse to serve in a non-Army Medical Department major general assignment. Barbisch is currently the Chief Nurse, 3rd MEDCOM.

Col. Paulette M. Risher has been selected to take command of the 353rd Civil Affairs Command, Bronx, N.Y., a brigadier general assignment. She will become the first Army Reserve woman to serve in a brigadier general Civil Affairs (CA) position. Civil Affairs is a key Army Reserve specialty. All but one CA unit, the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C., are in the Army Reserve. There are four Army Reserve CA Commands in the Army, which fall under the command of the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Col. Donna L. Dacier, an Active Guard Reserve officer, has been selected to become Deputy Commander of the 63rd Regional Support Command, Los Alamitos, Calif., a brigadier general assignment. She is the first full-time Army Reserve woman selected to become the deputy commander of an RSC.

(Lt. Col. Randy Pullen is with the Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate Office of the Chief, Army Reserve)

Additional SGLI coverage available, increased premiums

The Serviceman's Group Life Insurance, better known as SGLI, automatically increased $250,000 beginning April 1, 2001.

The group term life insurance available to members of the armed forces, will continue to cost servicemembers $80 per $10,000 of coverage, resulting in an additional $4.00 premium being withheld from each member's pay for SGLI. As an example, for those members who currently have the maximum coverage amount of $200,000, the premium payment per month is $16.00. With the increase in coverage, the premium will now be $ 20.00 per month for the maximum coverage.

A remark appeared in the February 2001 Leave and Earnings Statement (LES), advising soldiers of this rate increase and if a servicemember desires the full increased coverage ($250,000), no action is necessary. However, if any member desires a reduced amount of coverage, or no coverage, that member must prepare a new VA SGLV 8286, indicating the desired amount of coverage, or no coverage. This form, to elect a reduced amount of coverage, or no coverage, must be prepared, signed, dated, and submitted no earlier than April 1, 2001 and no later than April 30, 2001.

Any requests for reduced coverage, or no coverage, received during this period will result in a refund of any over-collection of the premium in the month of April.

The April 1 to April 30, 2001 time frame is critical. Requests for reduced SGLI coverage, or no SGLI coverage dated and received after April 30, 2001 will be processed to reduce the coverage, or stop the coverage, effective in May 2001, but will not result in a refund of the maximum premium withheld for the month of April 2001.

Questions regarding SGLI should be directed to your personnel office.

Tuition assistance available to Reservists

The Army Reserve is offering tuition assistance (TA) to selected reserve soldiers earning their first credential at the diploma, certificate, associate, baccalaureate, graduate level or taking vocational/technical courses offered by accredited colleges/universities. The Army Reserve will pay up to 75% of the course cost, or $187.50 per credit hour, whichever is less - up to $3,500.00 per fiscal year.

Soldiers seeking course enrollment must first receive counseling from an Educational Services Specialist. Active Guard Reserve soldiers must still contact the active duty education center in their geographical location to receive TA.

Another recent Army Reserve initiative is the Credit by Examination program for which soldiers and spouses can earn college credits through testing and receive reimbursement for the cost upon successful completion. Credit by Examination can be earned via the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSSTs) and the Excelsior College Examination. Websites for these respective programs are:

CLEP: www.collegeboard.org/clep/

DSSTs: www.voled.doded.mil/index.htm

Excelsior College Examinations: www.excelsior.edu/

Contact your Education Services Specialists to learn more about eligibility and filing requirements or visit the AR-PERSCOM web site www.2xcitizen.usar.army.mil.

State Education Services Specialists

Mr. Ruthven Demas
Education Services Specialist
Cdr, 77th RSC (NY, NJ)
Ernie Pyle USAR Center
ATTN: AFRC-ANY-PRS
Bldg 200, Room 399
Fort Totten, NY 11359-1016
Comm (718) 352-5778
FAX (718) 352-5208
Email-ruthven.demas@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Dr. Majorie Petcovic
Cdr, 94th RSC (MA, CT, RI, NH, ME, VT)
ATTN: AFRC-CMA-RET
50 Sherman Ave
Devens-Ayer, MA 01432-4449
Toll Free-1800-554-7813 EXT 2309
Comm (978) 796-2309
DSN 256-2309
FAX 978-796-2211
E-mail-ken.fetters@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Mr. Danny Sanchez
Education Services Specialist
Cdr, 96th RSC (UT, CO, WY, MT, ND, SD)
Stephen A. Douglas AFRC
Bldg 103
Salt Lake City, UT 84113-5007
Comm (801) 736-4578
FAX 801-736-4595
E-mail- danny.sanchez@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Mary Kunco
Education Services Specialist
Cdr, 99th RSC (PA, MD, DE, DC)
ATTN: AFRC-CPA-RT-ED
5 Lobaugh Street
Oakdale, PA 15071-5001
Toll Free-1800-567-9518
Comm (724) 693-2267
FAX (724) 693-2266
E-mail-mary.kunco@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Ms. Carol Maze
Education Services Specialist
Cdr, 310th TSC (VA, WV)
8831 Farrar Road
ATTN: AFRC-TAVA-GA
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5101
Toll Free-1800-845-3362
Comm (703) 806-5393
DSN 656-5393

See EDUCATION, page 62

Women's History Month

March marked historic period for Army Reserve women

By Lt. Col. Randy Pullen

(From left) Brig. Gen. Karol Kennedy, Deputy Commanding General, 99th Regional Support Command; Brig. Gen. Donna Barbisch, Deputy Commander, Clinical Services, 3d Medical Command: and Col. Coral Pietsch, Chief Judge (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), U.S. Army Legal Services Agency.

WASHINGTON (March 19, 2001)— This year's Women's History Month was especially historic for women in the Army Reserve.

Among the many historic "firsts" this March was the nomination of an Army Reserve woman to become the Army's first Asian Pacific American woman general and the selection of the first African-American woman for an Army Reserve general officer assignment.

The month kicked off with Col. Coral Wong Pietsch being nominated for promotion to brigadier general March 1. If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, she will become the Army's first Asian Pacific American woman general, as well as the first woman general in the history of the Army Judge Advocate General Corps. Pietsch serves as the Chief Judge (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), U.S. Army Legal Services Agency, Falls Church, Va.

A flurry of firsts came two weeks later on March 14, with the release of the 2001 General Officer Assignment Advisory Board list. Among these was the selection of Col. Carrie L. Nero to become Chief Nurse, 3rd Medical Command, Decatur, Ga., a brigadier general assignment. She will become the first black woman, as well as the first black woman nurse, to serve in a brigadier general assignment in the Army Reserve.

Nero was joined by several other women making history in March 2001, one of whom was the person she is replacing at the 3rd MEDCOM.

Brig. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy has been selected to take command of the 99th Regional Support Command (RSC), Oakdale, Pa., a major general assignment. She will become the first woman to command an RSC, a major Army Reserve command. There are 12 RSCs in the continental United States, Puerto Rico and Hawaii and one Army Reserve Command (ARCOM), an equivalent organization, in Europe. The 99th RSC commands Army Reserve units in Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia.

Brig. Gen. Donna F. Barbisch has been selected to become the Military Assistant (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), Washington, DC, a major general assignment. She will become the first Army Reserve nurse to serve in a major general position and also the first Army Reserve nurse to serve in a non-Army Medical Department major general assignment. Barbisch is currently the Chief Nurse, 3rd MEDCOM.

Col. Paulette M. Risher has been selected to take command of the 353rd Civil Affairs Command, Bronx, N.Y., a brigadier general assignment. She will become the first Army Reserve woman to serve in a brigadier general Civil Affairs (CA) position. Civil Affairs is a key Army Reserve specialty. All but one CA unit, the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C., are in the Army Reserve. There are four Army Reserve CA Commands in the Army, which fall under the command of the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Col. Donna L. Dacier, an Active Guard Reserve officer, has been selected to become Deputy Commander of the 63rd Regional Support Command, Los Alamitos, Calif., a brigadier general assignment. She is the first full-time Army Reserve woman selected to become the deputy commander of an RSC.

(Lt. Col. Randy Pullen is with the Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate Office of the Chief, Army Reserve)

Additional SGLI coverage available, increased premiums

The Serviceman's Group Life Insurance, better known as SGLI, automatically increased $250,000 beginning April 1, 2001.

The group term life insurance available to members of the armed forces, will continue to cost servicemembers $80 per $10,000 of coverage, resulting in an additional $4.00 premium being withheld from each member's pay for SGLI. As an example, for those members who currently have the maximum coverage amount of $200,000, the premium payment per month is $16.00. With the increase in coverage, the premium will now be $ 20.00 per month for the maximum coverage.

A remark appeared in the February 2001 Leave and Earnings Statement (LES), advising soldiers of this rate increase and if a servicemember desires the full increased coverage ($250,000), no action is necessary. However, if any member desires a reduced amount of coverage, or no coverage, that member must prepare a new VA SGLV 8286, indicating the desired amount of coverage, or no coverage. This form, to elect a reduced amount of coverage, or no coverage, must be prepared, signed, dated, and submitted no earlier than April 1, 2001 and no later than April 30, 2001.

Any requests for reduced coverage, or no coverage, received during this period will result in a refund of any over-collection of the premium in the month of April.

The April 1 to April 30, 2001 time frame is critical. Requests for reduced SGLI coverage, or no SGLI coverage dated and received after April 30, 2001 will be processed to reduce the coverage, or stop the coverage, effective in May 2001, but will not result in a refund of the maximum premium withheld for the month of April 2001.

Questions regarding SGLI should be directed to your personnel office.

Tuition assistance available to Reservists

The Army Reserve is offering tuition assistance (TA) to selected reserve soldiers earning their first credential at the diploma, certificate, associate, baccalaureate, graduate level or taking vocational/technical courses offered by accredited colleges/universities. The Army Reserve will pay up to 75% of the course cost, or $187.50 per credit hour, whichever is less - up to $3,500.00 per fiscal year.

Soldiers seeking course enrollment must first receive counseling from an Educational Services Specialist. Active Guard Reserve soldiers must still contact the active duty education center in their geographical location to receive TA.

Another recent Army Reserve initiative is the Credit by Examination program for which soldiers and spouses can earn college credits through testing and receive reimbursement for the cost upon successful completion. Credit by Examination can be earned via the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSSTs) and the Excelsior College Examination. Websites for these respective programs are:

CLEP: www.collegeboard.org/clep/

DSSTs: www.voled.doded.mil/index.htm

Excelsior College Examinations: www.excelsior.edu/

Contact your Education Services Specialists to learn more about eligibility and filing requirements or visit the AR-PERSCOM web site www.2xcitizen.usar.army.mil.

State Education Services Specialists

Mr. Ruthven Demas
Education Services Specialist
Cdr, 77th RSC (NY, NJ)
Ernie Pyle USAR Center
ATTN: AFRC-ANY-PRS
Bldg 200, Room 399
Fort Totten, NY 11359-1016
Comm (718) 352-5778
FAX (718) 352-5208
Email-ruthven.demas@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Dr. Majorie Petcovic
Cdr, 94th RSC (MA, CT, RI, NH, ME, VT)
ATTN: AFRC-CMA-RET
50 Sherman Ave
Devens-Ayer, MA 01432-4449
Toll Free-1800-554-7813 EXT 2309
Comm (978) 796-2309
DSN 256-2309
FAX 978-796-2211
E-mail-ken.fetters@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Mr. Danny Sanchez
Education Services Specialist
Cdr, 96th RSC (UT, CO, WY, MT, ND, SD)
Stephen A. Douglas AFRC
Bldg 103
Salt Lake City, UT 84113-5007
Comm (801) 736-4578
FAX 801-736-4595
E-mail- danny.sanchez@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Mary Kunco
Education Services Specialist
Cdr, 99th RSC (PA, MD, DE, DC)
ATTN: AFRC-CPA-RT-ED
5 Lobaugh Street
Oakdale, PA 15071-5001
Toll Free-1800-567-9518
Comm (724) 693-2267
FAX (724) 693-2266
E-mail-mary.kunco@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Ms. Carol Maze
Education Services Specialist
Cdr, 310th TSC (VA, WV)
8831 Farrar Road
ATTN: AFRC-TAVA-GA
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5101
Toll Free-1800-845-3362
Comm (703) 806-5393
DSN 656-5393

See EDUCATION, page 62

Sergeants Major conference

Components work together, new NCO vision

By Master Sgt. Vicki Washington

EL PASO, Texas (January 2001)— Sergeant Major of the Army Jack Tilley hosted the first ever Nominative Command Sergeant Major Conference recently at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy.

Attended by 250 of the Army's most senior noncommissioned officers, the Army's senior noncommissioned officer said the purpose of the conference was twofold: To identify some specific areas for the Noncommissioned Officer Corps to focus on this year and to concentrate on vital soldier related issues to recommend to the Chief of Staff of the Army for his consideration.

"This is the first time in my military career, and I have 32 years in the Army, that we've ever pulled in the Active, Reserve and National Guard components together and let them talk issues," Tilley noted. "I think it's important for all of us to have one vision and one focus for the Army," Tilley said. "If the NCO Corps is pretty strong and if we can all stay focused in one direction, we can change a lot of things and make it better for our Army."

Sometimes people are so worried about what their next steps are that they can't do the job they are supposed to do.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley

Guest speakers featured at the conference included Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera, Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Maude and numerous subject matter experts from a variety of fields ranging from medical, finance, logistics and installation management.

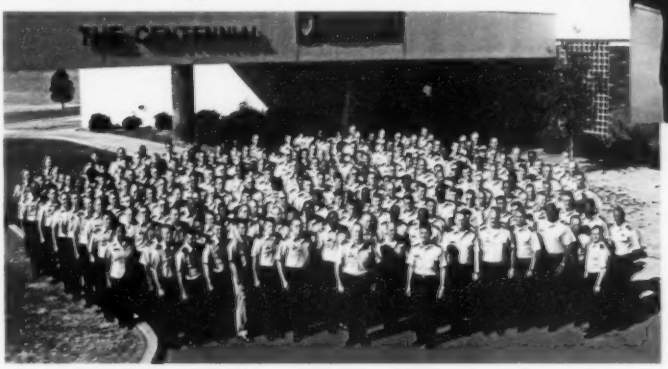
Addressing concerns

Tilley assured the attendees that Shinseki will welcome the concerns and suggestions the sergeants major brought to his attention and that the soldiers of the U.S. Army were counting on them to collectively be their voice.

"I'm very proud of all the things that went on and I'm very proud of all the senior officers that came down and took the extra time to give us presentations just made our conference great," Tilley expressed. "It shows that they care about the NCO Corps."

Senior NCOs in attending the conference said they found it worthwhile for a variety of reasons and plan to take lessons learned back to their units.

Having spent 40 years in service to his country with 34 of those in the Reserve, Command Sgt. Major Eugene Simpson, 244th Aviation Brigade, Ft. Sheridan, Ill., says focus is what he'll take back to his troops. "The big thing right now I believe is the discipline. Everyone is looking to bring back the discipline and military courtesy, back into the mainstream. It's fallen subtly by the wayside, all the way up the chain, not just with our young soldiers. I'll take back some of the focus that I've seen here of the Army vision because I don't think it was very clear to our young soldiers which way we're going to go. The Sergeant Major of the Army and Chief of Staff made it very clear here."



Networking

Command Sgt. Major Angelia Thrash, 9th Theater Support Command, Ft. Belvoir, Va., said the conference was an ideal way to meet her counterparts. "Personally when I come to this type of conference I like the networking it provides across the spectrum for the Army," Thrash said. "Being able to talk to my counter-

eveloped

(From left to right) Senior NCOs take advantage of the nice weather and enjoy a lunch served to them outside. Command Sgt. Maj. Michele Jones, 78th Division, selects her lunch entre while Command Sgt. Maj Alex Lackey looks on. Command Sgt. Maj. Gordon Young, 9th Regional Support Command shows off his lunch time choices. Command Sgt. Maj. Charlie Thorpe, 82nd Airborne Div. (right) and Sgt. Major of the Army Jack Tilley pick up their drinks and desert to top off the meal.

Photos by Master Sgt. Vicki Washington

parts and being able to connect with them about future deployments and missions is helpful. One of the misconceptions we deal with back at home…because my unit is an AC/RC unit, they think that the Reserve soldier can leave within a matter of a couple of days. We require more time so that we can interact with the soldier and also their employer. And so coming to the conference we can educate the active component that we're relevant and we're ready but we just require a little more time in order to advance and meet them on the battlefield or meet them at the mission."

Many of the attendees said there were more similarities between the components rather than differences.

"One thing is that we've definitely found we're on the same wavelength about our concern about developing junior leaders and better information for our junior soldiers and NCOs more specifically, on key Army programs," said Command Sgt. Major Paul B. Barnett, 7th Army Reserve Command, Ger.

Barnett said he believes this type of forum also helps to eliminate misconceptions. "The biggest thing is that as the Army Reserve becomes more engaged and more indispensable to the AC for the accomplishment of its mission, expectations of the Reserve component are rising. It happens very often at training conferences that units will be expected to be present for a half dozen exercises per year and its just too hard for most Reserve units to do."

Educating others

Barnett says during conferences like this, senior NCOs can use the opportunity to educate the other components. "I think there is a certain amount of education that can be done this way. We do still have some old-fashioned attitudes present in the active component. I have had it said to my face that Reserve duty was a kind of welfare for unemployed Reservists. That was kind of surprising to me. Conferences like this help to dispel those kind of attitudes.

Tilley said a lot of attitudes have changed with regard to the Reserve, including his. "Twenty years ago I wouldn't have given a plug nickel for the Reserve. Since that time, I've changed my mind a great deal. I tell you, we couldn't get the job done without the Reserve and Guard. If you look at the Reserve and Guard soldier I don't think you're going to see any difference. I think they're doing the best job they can just like we're doing the best job we can and we need to continue to build on that foundation.

The Army Reserve's senior enlisted man, Command Sergeant Maj. Ray Lackey agreed with Tilley's assessment.

Tougher standards

"We all agreed we need to "ratchet up", that's a Sergeant Major of the Army term for getting tougher on the standards," said Lackey. "We want to make sure we increase the safety in the Army, and we want to make sure that we looked at billeting for the soldiers. The Army Reserve brought up family support and employer support which is important to us. Those are the two issues that were more diverse for the Army Reserve than the rest of the components.

Lackey says his feeling is that on the average the components are all working off the same sheet of music. "I think basically the AC may have a better handle on some things like weapons qualification. We don't have as many opportunities for that type of training so we're behind the power curve on that for instance. If I were looking at an area where we do better than the AC, I think we do counseling better because in our civilian jobs we're used to doing that and we've got time to do it."

He encourages soldiers to stay focused in their lane if they want to be successful. "Understand what your respon-

See SMA, page 60

ROPMA changes the method used for MRD determination

By Nancy O'Leary and Maj. Rhonda Smillie

The legislation commonly referred to as the Reserve Officer Personnel Management Act (ROPMA) became effective on Oct. 1, 1996. It changed the law that governs how the Mandatory Removal Date (MRD) is determined. As a result, if an Army Promotion List (APL) officer has a date of rank after Oct. 1, 1996, one would expect to determine his MRD based on post-ROPMA rules. However, this is not always the case.

For this reason, it is important to understand ROPMA's application to MRD determination for Army Reserve officers. It must also be noted that AGR colonels, and Chaplain, Judge Advocate General, or Army Medical Department officers may have special situations that require expert knowledge.

Which rules apply?

MRD determination begins by noting the rank of the individual. For those at or below the rank of lieutenant colonel (0-5), MRD is determined under ROPMA rules (Title 10, United States Code, Chapter 1407). This is regardless of when the individual was promoted to his or her current rank.

Computing MRDs for those in the grade of second lieutenant (0-1) to lieutenant colonel (0-5) is now a three-step process:

1. Determine 28 years of commissioned service:

An officer's original appointment date (adjusted for breaks in service) is used to determine the date that an APL officer will have completed 28 years of commissioned service. By adding 28 years to this date and subtracting one day (this must be done when adding periods of time), the date for completion of 28 years of commissioned service can be determined. The MRD for years of service is then computed by advancing this date to the first day of the following month.

2. Determine the officer's 60th birthday:

The next step is to determine when the officer will reach age 60 (date of birth plus 60 years). Do not subtract one day. By moving forward to the last day of this month, the officer's MRD for age can be determined.

3. Determine the earlier of the two MRDs:

The earlier of the two dates is the officer's MRD.

Below is an example to highlight this three-step process.

Example 1: A second lieutenant (0-1) who accepted commission on 000521 and whose date of birth is 791013.

Step 1	
	Determine 28 Years of Commissioned Service
20000521	Date of Oath of Office
+ 28	Add 28 years
20280521	Future date
- 1	Adjustment when adding dates
20280520	Date Officer completes 28 years
20280601	First Day of next month
Step 2	
	Determine 60th Birthday
19791013	DOB
+ 60	Add 60 years
20391013	Future day (Do not adjust this)
20391013	Date officer turns 60
20391031	Last Day of the month in which the officer turns 60
Step 3 - Officers MRD is earlier of the two days or 20280601	

Please NOTE: Time an APL officer may have spent in the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) or in an inactive status is not considered a break in service for computing MRD.

Although this is one of the easier examples possible, with the exception of those APL officers who had a break in service, ROPMA has simplified MRD determination for lieutenant colonels (0-5) and below. It has also simplified MRD determination for colonels (O-6), if they are considered "Post-ROPMA."

The application of pre- or post- ROPMA rules for MRD determination applies only to colonels (O-6). In order to determine whether a colonel is pre- or post- ROPMA, a copy of his or her promotion orders AND the memorandum of Notification of Promotion Status is required. The promotion order will state the effective date the individual became an O-6.

The memorandum will tell the date that his or her selection board convened. An APL colonel who was promoted or SELECTED for promotion by a board which convened before Oct. 1, 1996, and those who were selected for promotion by the COL APL or the COL AMEDD board, which were approved by the Secretary of the Army on Oct. 7, 1996, are considered Pre-ROPMA colonels, regardless of when they actually "pinned on." For these individuals the MRD is determined in accordance with example 2.

Example 2: A Pre-ROPMA colonel (0-6) who has not had a break in service. The date of birth is 19490924, the DA Form 71 was signed 19730520, the date of rank is 19980520, and the promotion memorandum is dated 19980514.

Please NOTE: Time an officer may have spent in the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) or

Step 1	
	Determine 30 Years of Commissioned Service
19730520	Date of Oath of Office
+30	Add 30 years
20030520	Future date
- 1	Adjustment when adding dates
20030519	Date Officer completes 30 years
20030618	30 days after completion of 30 years commissioned service
Step 2	
	Determine 5 years as an O-6 From Effective Date of Promotion
19980520	Effective date of promotion
+ 5	Add 5 years
20030520	Fifth Anniversary Date of Promotion (Do not adjust this)
Step 3	
	Determine 5 years as an O-6 From Date of Promotion Memo
19980514	Date of Promotion Memo
+ 5	Add 5 years
20030514	Fifth anniversary of date of Promotion memo (Do not adjust this)
Step 4	
	Determine Age 60
19490924	Date of Birth
+ 60	Add 60 years
20090924	Future date (Do not adjust this)
20090924	Date officer turns 60
20090930	Last day of the month in which the officer turns age 60
Step 5 - Enter the MRD into TAPDB-R A. Determine the later of Steps 1, 2, & 3. 20030618 B. Determine MRD for age (Step 4). 20090930 MRD is the earlier date of A and B or 20030618	

In an inactive status is not considered a break in service for computing MRD.

Example 3: A Post-ROPMA APL colonel (0-6) who has not had a break in service. The officer was commissioned on 19760515. The date of birth is 19520924.

Please NOTE. Time an APL officer may have spent in the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) or

Step 1	
	Determine 30 Years of Commissioned Service
19760515	Date of Oath of Office
+ 30	Add 30 years
20060515	Future date
- 1	Adjustment when adding dates
20060514	Date officer serves 30 years
20060601	First day of next month

Step 2	
	Determine 60th Birthday
19520924	Date of birth
+ 60	Add 60 years
20120924	Future date (Do not adjust this)
20120924	Date officer turns 60
20120930	Last day of the month in which the officer turns age 60
Step 3 - MRD is the earlier of the two dates or 20060601	

in an inactive status is not considered a break in service for computing MRD.

Beware of common errors

Determination of MRD under the rules of ROPMA is fairly easy. However, errors occur when officers have a break in service, when rules are incorrectly applied to AGR colonels, or when a Chaplain (CH), Judge Advocate General (JAG) or Army Medical Department (AMEDD) officer attended schooling that falls under the service exclusion of 10 U.S.C. 14706 and the National Defense Authorization Act, FY2000. Further, 10 U.S.C. 14703 allows, under certain circumstances, the retention of Chaplains and AMEDD officers to age 67.

Questions concerning the MRDs of non-AGR CH, JAG, and AMEDD officers that can not be answered by the officer's chain of command should be sent to AR-PERSCOM, ATTN: ARPC-**(See chart below)**, 1 Reserve Way, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200.

Questions concerning the MRDs of AGR colonels should be sent to Office of the Chief, Army Reserve, Chief, Senior AGR Management Office, ATTN: DAAR-ZDB,

Soldier's State of Residence	ATTN:
CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT	PSR-A
NY, NJ	PSR-B
DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV	PSR-C
AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, KY, MS, TN	PSR-D
IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI	PSR-E
AR, LA, NM, OK, TX	PSR-F
IA, KS, MO, NE	PSR-G
CO, ND, MT, SD, UT, WY	PSR-H
AZ, CA, NV	PSR-I
ID, OR, WA	PSR-J
OCONUS/MACOM	PSR-K

2400 Army Pentagon, Washington CD.20310-2400

(Nancy O'Leary is the program manager for MRDs in the Personnel Actions and Services Directorate, AR-PERSCOM. Major Rhonda Smillie is a personnel proponency integration officer in the Personnel Proponency Office, AR-PERSCOM.)

ROPMA changes the method used for MRD determination

By Nancy O'Leary and Maj. Rhonda Smillie

The legislation commonly referred to as the Reserve Officer Personnel Management Act (ROPMA) became effective on Oct. 1, 1996. It changed the law that governs how the Mandatory Removal Date (MRD) is determined. As a result, if an Army Promotion List (APL) officer has a date of rank after Oct. 1, 1996, one would expect to determine his MRD based on post-ROPMA rules. However, this is not always the case.

For this reason, it is important to understand ROPMA's application to MRD determination for Army Reserve officers. It must also be noted that AGR colonels, and Chaplain, Judge Advocate General, or Army Medical Department officers may have special situations that require expert knowledge.

Which rules apply?

MRD determination begins by noting the rank of the individual. For those at or below the rank of lieutenant colonel (0-5), MRD is determined under ROPMA rules (Title 10, United States Code, Chapter 1407). This is regardless of when the individual was promoted to his or her current rank.

Computing MRDs for those in the grade of second lieutenant (0-1) to lieutenant colonel (0-5) is now a three-step process:

1. Determine 28 years of commissioned service:

An officer's original appointment date (adjusted for breaks in service) is used to determine the date that an APL officer will have completed 28 years of commissioned service. By adding 28 years to this date and subtracting one day (this must be done when adding periods of time), the date for completion of 28 years of commissioned service can be determined. The MRD for years of service is then computed by advancing this date to the first day of the following month.

2. Determine the officer's 60th birthday:

The next step is to determine when the officer will reach age 60 (date of birth plus 60 years). Do not subtract one day. By moving forward to the last day of this month, the officer's MRD for age can be determined.

3. Determine the earlier of the two MRDs:

The earlier of the two dates is the officer's MRD.

Below is an example to highlight this three-step process.

Example 1: A second lieutenant (0-1) who accepted commission on 000521 and whose date of birth is 791013.

	Step 1
	Determine 28 Years of Commissioned Service
20000521	Date of Oath of Office
+ 28	Add 28 years
20280521	Future date
- 1	Adjustment when adding dates
20280520	Date Officer completes 28 years
20280601	First Day of next month
	Step 2
	Determine 60th Birthday
19791013	DOB
+ 60	Add 60 years
20391013	Future day (Do not adjust this)
20391013	Date officer turns 60
20391031	Last Day of the month in which the officer turns 60
Step 3 - Officers MRD is earlier of the two days or 20280601	

Although this is one of the easier examples possible, with the exception of those APL officers who had a break in service, ROPMA has simplified MRD determination for lieutenant colonels (0-5) and below. It has also simplified MRD determination for colonels (O-6), if they are considered "Post-ROPMA."

The application of pre- or post- ROPMA rules for MRD determination applies only to colonels (O-6). In order to determine whether a colonel is pre- or post- ROPMA, a copy of his or her promotion orders AND the memorandum of Notification of Promotion Status is required. The promotion order will state the effective date the individual became an O-6.

The memorandum will tell the date that his or her selection board convened. An APL colonel who was promoted or SELECTED for promotion by a board which convened before Oct. 1, 1996, and those who were selected for promotion by the COL APL or the COL AMEDD board, which were approved by the Secretary of the Army on Oct. 7, 1996, are considered Pre-ROPMA colonels, regardless of when they actually "pinned on." For these individuals the MRD is determined in accordance with example 2.

Example 2: A Pre-ROPMA colonel (0-6) who has not had a break in service. The date of birth is 19490924, the DA Form 71 was signed 19730520, the date of rank is 19980520, and the promotion memorandum is dated 19980514.

Step 1	
	Determine 30 Years of Commissioned Service
19730520	Date of Oath of Office
+30	Add 30 years
20030520	Future date
- 1	Adjustment when adding dates
20030519	Date Officer completes 30 years
20030618	30 days after completion of 30 years commissioned service
Step 2	
	Determine 5 years as an O-6 From Effective Date of Promotion
19980520	Effective date of promotion
+ 5	Add 5 years
20030520	Fifth Anniversary Date of Promotion (Do not adjust this)
Step 3	
	Determine 5 years as an O-6 From Date of Promotion Memo
19980514	Date of Promotion Memo
+ 5	Add 5 years
20030514	Fifth anniversary of date of Promotion memo (Do not adjust this)
Step 4	
	Determine Age 60
19490924	Date of Birth
+ 60	Add 60 years
20090924	Future date (Do not adjust this)
20090924	Date officer turns 60
20090930	Last day of the month in which the officer turns age 60
Step 5 - Enter the MRD into TAPDB-R A. Determine the later of Steps 1, 2, & 3. 20030618 B. Determine MRD for age (Step 4). 20090930 MRD is the earlier date of A and B or 20030618	

In an inactive status is not considered a break in service for computing MRD.

Example 3: A Post-ROPMA APL colonel (0-6) who has not had a break in service. The officer was commissioned on 19760515. The date of birth is 19520924.

Please NOTE: Now an APL officer may have spent in the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) or

Step 1	
	Determine 30 Years of Commissioned Service
19760515	Date of Oath of Office
+ 30	Add 30 years
20060515	Future date
- 1	Adjustment when adding dates
20060514	Date officer serves 30 years
20060601	First day of next month

Step 2	
	Determine 60th Birthday
19520924	Date of birth
+ 60	Add 60 years
20120924	Future date (Do not adjust this)
20120924	Date officer turns 60
20120930	Last day of the month in which the officer turns age 60
Step 3 - MRD is the earlier of the two dates or 20060601	

In an inactive status is not considered a break in service for computing MRD.

Beware of common errors

Determination of MRD under the rules of ROPMA is fairly easy. However, errors occur when officers have a break in service, when rules are incorrectly applied to AGR colonels, or when a Chaplain (CH), Judge Advocate General (JAG) or Army Medical Department (AMEDD) officer attended schooling that falls under the service exclusion of 10 U.S.C. 14706 and the National Defense Authorization Act, FY2000. Further, 10 U.S.C. 14703 allows, under certain circumstances, the retention of Chaplains and AMEDD officers to age 67.

Questions concerning the MRDs of non-AGR CH, JAG, and AMEDD officers that can not be answered by the officer's chain of command should be sent to AR-PERSCOM, ATTN: ARPC-**(See chart below)**, 1 Reserve Way, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200.

Questions concerning the MRDs of AGR colonels should be sent to Office of the Chief, Army Reserve, Chief, Senior AGR Management Office, ATTN: DAAR-ZDB, 2400 Army Pentagon, Washington CD 20310-2400

Soldier's State of Residence	ATTN:
CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT	PSR-A
NY, NJ	PSR-B
DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV	PSR-C
AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, KY, MS, TN	PSR-D
IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI	PSR-E
AR, LA, NM, OK, TX	PSR-F
IA, KS, MO, NE	PSR-G
CO, ND, MT, SD, UT, WY	PSR-H
AZ, CA, NV	PSR-I
ID, OR, WA	PSR-J
OCONUS/MACOM	PSR-K

(Nancy O'Leary is the program manager for MRDs in the Personnel Actions and Services Directorate, AR-PERSCOM. Major Rhonda Smillie is a personnel proponency integration officer in the Personnel Proponency Office, AR-PERSCOM.)

Master Sgt. Rich Orihuela

Sgt. First Class Kelly Lanier

Photo by Tony Johnson

(Clockwise from left) Gulf War Veteran Christopher McHugh is embraced by his wife Heather during the National Anthem. World W ar II Veteran Julius Falcon plays "Taps" as he has for every memorial service for the 14th QM Det. since the ceremonies began 10 years ago. Paula Boliver Wuckovich receives a copy of the Congressional Record of Senator Rick Santorum's speech to the Senate honoring the 14th from Keith Schmidt, state director for Santorum. A closeup of the 14th QM Det. sculptures, designed by Susan Wagner, Pittsburgh, PA . Maj. Gen. Rodney Ruddock (left) and Melissa Wukovich stand near wreaths placed at the 14th QM Memorial as Maj. Steve Harmon (far right), public affairs officer for the 99th Regional Support Command, reads the names of the each of the 14th Quartermaster soldiers killed in action.

Gulf War Ceremony

Victims of scud attack remembered

Story and photos by Tony Johnson

ATLANTA–Ceremonies were held Feb. 25 to honor soldiers from the Army Reserve's 14th Quartermaster Detachment based in Greensburg, Penn., who were killed or injured 10 years ago in an Iraqi Scud missile attack during Operation Desert Storm. More than 500 family members, soldiers, veterans and local citizens filled the gymnasium at Greensburg Central Catholic High School to pay their respect.

Paula Boliver Wukovich, widow of Spec. John Boliver, Jr. who was killed in the attack, delivered some of the most poignant remarks at the ceremony. She described her emotions when she first learned of the attack and the feeling of dread she experienced when she heard the 14th Quartermaster was housed in the makeshift warehouse barracks that had been struck.

"My life was shattered and I didn't see how the pieces would ever fit together again," said Wukovich. She stressed the importance of the family members of those killed and the other survivors from the attack getting together for these memorial services.

"It's essential to healing. No one else can understand what you're going through. I couldn't have made it through those first few years without them. We all have scars and wounds that hopefully make us more compassionate and stronger. The sacrifices of these soldiers are even more meaningful because we are all now better human beings from having gone through this."

She went on to say that it has taken ten years but now

Photo by Jack Gordon

she can say "I'm looking forward to tomorrow again, I'm fully happy. Speaking today has brought me full circle. It's the best tribute I can give to my husband."

Also speaking at the ceremony were U.S. Rep. John P. Murtha of Johnstown, Penn.; Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, Chief of the Army Reserve; Maj. Gen Rodney D. Ruddock, commanding general of the 99th Regional Support Command; Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley; and Keith Schmidt, state director for U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum.

The Iraqi Scud missile attack on Feb. 25, 1991 was the single most devastating attack on U.S. forces during the war. Twenty-eight soldiers were killed and 99 were wounded. Of those casualties, 13 members of the 14th were killed and 43 were wounded. Eighty-one percent of the unit's 69 members were killed or wounded and the 14th suffered the greatest number of casualties of any coalition unit during the war.

"When these soldiers left Greensburg, many of you were here exchanging final embraces and whispering, as I did, prayers that they might fulfill their duty and return safely," said Ruddock, who was the chief of staff of the 99th during the Gulf War. "Know now, here today, that their lives were lost in the truest spirit of the American soldier, and that the people of Kuwait remain free of ruthless tyranny today for their effort."

First Sergeant Terry Davis, a member of the 14th who was wounded in the attack also spoke at the ceremony. "Time has made it easier," he said, "but we still miss them each day."

The headquarters for the 14th Quartermaster is located adjacent to the high school where the first ceremony was held. A solemn memorial to the soldiers of the 14th killed or wounded was constructed outside the headquarters and was dedicated on the one-year anniversary of the Scud missile attack. Following the ceremony at the high school, the attendees moved outside to the memorial for a wreath laying ceremony.

Matthew and Melissa Wukovich, the children of Spec. Boliver, and Joshua Davis, son of 1st Sgt. Davis, assisted with placement of the wreaths at the memorial.

Wreaths were placed on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania, the U.S. Army, Army Reserve, and on behalf of the 99th Regional Support Command.

Following the placement of the wreaths, the names of each of the soldiers killed in action were read aloud followed by a 21-gun salute and taps.

(Mr. Johnson is with the U.S. Army Reserve Command Public Affairs Office)

Photo by Tony Johnson

Master Sgt. Rick Orlemann

Sgt. First Class Kelly Lester

Photo by Tony Johnson

(Clockwise from left) Gulf War Veteran Christopher McHugh is embraced by his wife Heather during the National Anthem. World W ar II Veteran Julius Falcon plays "Taps" as he has for every memorial service for the 14th QM Det. since the ceremonies began 10 years ago. Paula Boliver Wuckovich receives a copy of the Congressional Record of Senator Rick Santorum's speech to the Senate honoring the 14th from Keith Schmidt, state director for Santorum. A closeup of the 14th QM Det. sculptures, designed by Susan Wagner, Pittsburgh, PA . Maj. Gen. Rodney Ruddock (left) and Melissa Wukovich stand near wreaths placed at the 14th QM Memorial as Maj. Steve Harmon (far right), public affairs officer for the 99th Regional Support Command, reads the names of the each of the 14th Quartermaster soldiers killed in action.

Gulf War Ceremony

Victims of scud attack remembered

Story and photos by Tony Johnson

ATLANTA–Ceremonies were held Feb. 25 to honor soldiers from the Army Reserve's 14th Quartermaster Detachment based in Greensburg, Penn., who were killed or injured 10 years ago in an Iraqi Scud missile attack during Operation Desert Storm. More than 500 family members, soldiers, veterans and local citizens filled the gymnasium at Greensburg Central Catholic High School to pay their respect.

Paula Boliver Wukovich, widow of Spec. John Boliver, Jr. who was killed in the attack, delivered some of the most poignant remarks at the ceremony. She described her emotions when she first learned of the attack and the feeling of dread she experienced when she heard the 14th Quartermaster was housed in the makeshift warehouse barracks that had been struck.

"My life was shattered and I didn't see how the pieces would ever fit together again," said Wukovich. She stressed the importance of the family members of those killed and the other survivors from the attack getting together for these memorial services.

"It's essential to healing. No one else can understand what you're going through. I couldn't have made it through those first few years without them. We all have scars and wounds that hopefully make us more compassionate and stronger. The sacrifices of these soldiers are even more meaningful because we are all now better human beings from having gone through this."

She went on to say that it has taken ten years but now

Photo by Jack Gordon

she can say "I'm looking forward to tomorrow again, I'm fully happy. Speaking today has brought me full circle. It's the best tribute I can give to my husband."

Also speaking at the ceremony were U.S. Rep. John P. Murtha of Johnstown, Penn.; Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, Chief of the Army Reserve; Maj. Gen Rodney D. Ruddock, commanding general of the 99th Regional Support Command; Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley; and Keith Schmidt, state director for U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum.

The Iraqi Scud missile attack on Feb. 25, 1991 was the single most devastating attack on U.S. forces during the war. Twenty-eight soldiers were killed and 99 were wounded. Of those casualties, 13 members of the 14th were killed and 43 were wounded. Eighty-one percent of the unit's 69 members were killed or wounded and the 14th suffered the greatest number of casualties of any coalition unit during the war.

"When these soldiers left Greensburg, many of you were here exchanging final embraces and whispering, as I did, prayers that they might fulfill their duty and return safely," said Ruddock, who was the chief of staff of the 99th during the Gulf War. "Know now, here today, that their lives were lost in the truest spirit of the American soldier, and that the people of Kuwait remain free of ruthless tyranny today for their effort."

First Sergeant Terry Davis, a member of the 14th who was wounded in the attack also spoke at the ceremony. "Time has made it easier," he said, "but we still miss them each day."

The headquarters for the 14th Quartermaster is located adjacent to the high school where the first ceremony was held. A solemn memorial to the soldiers of the 14th killed or wounded was constructed outside the headquarters and was dedicated on the one-year anniversary of the Scud missile attack. Following the ceremony at the high school, the attendees moved outside to the memorial for a wreath laying ceremony.

Matthew and Melissa Wukovich, the children of Spec. Boliver, and Joshua Davis, son of 1st Sgt. Davis, assisted with placement of the wreaths at the memorial.

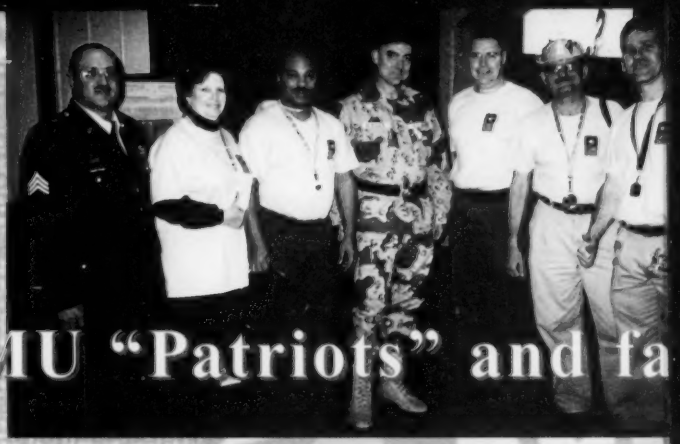
Wreaths were placed on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania, the U.S. Army, Army Reserve, and on behalf of the 99th Regional Support Command.

Following the placement of the wreaths, the names of each of the soldiers killed in action were read aloud followed by a 21-gun salute and taps.

(Mr. Johnson is with the U.S. Army Reserve Command Public Affairs Office)

Photo by Tony Johnson

Ten years after the storm



GMU "Patriots" and fa

(Bottom left) Nancy Shaw, Gulf War veteran and assistant professor of Information Systems at GMU's school of management, poses with her 8-year-old daughter, Claire. In 1990, Shaw was an Army Reserve captain and Individual Mobilization Augmentee assigned to the J-2 section of U.S. Central Command. (Top left) Before the game, Brig. Gen. Michael Beasley, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (wearing beret, center) presents plaques of appreciation to GMU President Dr. Alan Merten (left), City of Fairfax Council Member Chap Petersen, Desert Shield/Storm veterans Nancy Shawand George Evans, star player of the GMU Patriots basketball team (right). (Above) Brig. Gen. Beasley, (center), poses with Army Reserve volunteers who participated in the commemorative event at George Mason University's Patriot Center. (l-r) Army Reserve Recruiter Sgt. Teddy Wakeman, Sgt. Maj. Beth Lyle, Maj. Mike Walton, Brig. Gen. Beasley, Lt. Col. Jeff Keane, Lt. Col. Randy Pullen and Sgt. 1st Class Troy Falardeau.

By Maj. Mike Walton

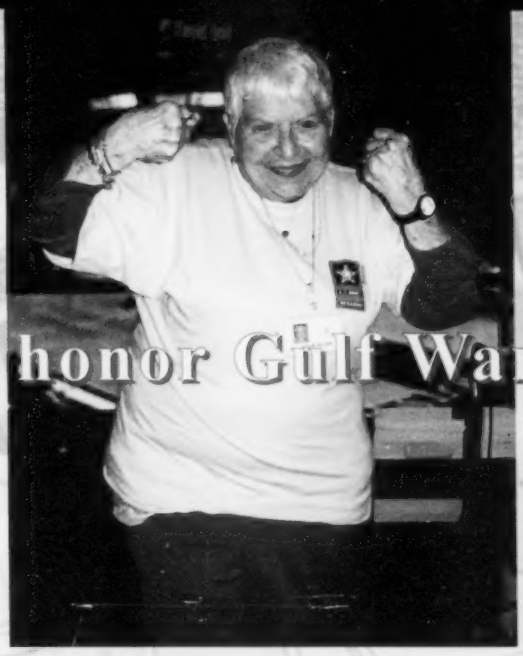
FAIRFAX, Va. (Feb. 10, 2001)—George Mason University, the City of Fairfax, Virginia and the Army Reserve all teamed up recently to honor veterans of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The venue for this special evening was the University's Patriot Center, a hub of community activities as well as the home to the University's basketball team.

"Army Reserve Night" was organized with the cooperation of the University's events and athletics departments and Sgt. 1st Class Troy Falardeau, the National Exhibit Program Manager for the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate (OCAR-PALD). He met with events and athletics officials at the school and coordinated the evening with assistance from Task Force Ten, the team coordinating all Desert Shield/Storm events and activities for the Army Reserve. Together they transformed what would otherwise be just another night for soldiers to see a ball game into a highlight of the National Capital Region's observance — "Ten Years After the Storm."

Falardeau and the Task Force worked hard to make the night a special night for the entire Army family, not just the Army Reserve. The University provided a block of tickets for this Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) event and the tickets were distributed to Army Reservists living within the area, Reserve units, recruiting commands, veteran's groups, ROTC detachments, the 3rd Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) and the National Guard Bureau. Distinguished veterans from the U.S. Soldiers and Airmen's Home were also special guests for the evening.

Volunteers distributing yel-

ns honor Gulf War veterans



(Left) Birdie Golfer, a resident of the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home in Washington, D.C. shows her "Hoo-ah" spirit as she models her new Army Reserve shirt. She, along with several other residents of the home, were special guests of the Army Reserve at the game. Each was given a t-shirt with the new U.S. Army Reserve logo on the front and "Army Reserve Soldiers are PATRIOTS" on the back. (Above from left to right) Philip Uhlmann, Sgt. 1st Class Donna Hairston, Ed Woessner, Lt. Col. Dennis Saltzman, Lee Corkill, Daniel Gallucci, and Sgt. Maj. Pamela Townsend.

low ribbons, Reserve information and literature wore tan tee shirts with the wording "Army Reserve Soldiers Are PATRIOTS!" Other volunteers were at the doors handing out copies of Army Reserve Magazine and entry forms for a halftime contest song contest entitled "Sounds of Desert Storm."

The presence of George Evans, a Desert Storm veteran and the starting forward for GMU's basketball team, added to the evening's excitement. An Army Reservist from Portsmouth, Va., Evans drew media attention the week prior to the game when he was profiled by USA TODAY.

While Evans did not want to talk much about his Gulf War experiences, he did talk about how he felt about the Army – and teamwork stressing that like basketball, the Army is based upon teamwork.

"Everyone has a story," he said, "Mine isn't any better than theirs."

Representing the Chief, Army Reserve during the pregame ceremony was Brig. Gen. Michael Beasley, who serves as Deputy Commanding General of the Army's Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (USACAPOC) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Beasley, an attorney working in the Fairfax area, felt it was a grand honor to stand-in for the Chief.

Dressed in the original "chocolate chip" uniform many soldiers wore ten years ago during the conflict, Beasley presented special plaques to Dr. Alan Merten, George Mason University President and to J. Chapman (Chap) Petersen, representing the City of Fairfax for their support of the Army Reserve and Reservists throughout the years. He also presented special Tenth Anniversary mementos to Evans and Capt. Nancy Shaw, a member of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR).

Shaw is currently the assistant professor of Information Systems at GMU's School of Management. She served in the Central Command during Desert Storm at McDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla.

"When you talk about the Gulf War, most of the students don't know much about it, they don't remember it," said Shaw. "It was a very difficult time for us with lots of coffee and little sleep."

Beasley then addressed the audience of more than 4,000 and asked them not to forget the service and sacrifices of those men and women who served during Desert Shield and Storm, as well as those men and women who are currently stationed around the world.

"Let us always remember those veterans and members of the Army Reserve who did not return from Desert Storm." Brig. Gen. Beasley added.

With a color guard backdrop provided by the 99th Regional Support Command, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Whitfield from OCAR's Comptroller and Financial Management Directorate sang the National Anthem to start the game.

Undoubtedly, the star of the evening was George Evans – a communications major, star basketball player and Gulf War veteran.

"George has meant so much to this school. He's confident and proud of his time in the Army," said Merten, who was an Air Force aide during the Johnson Administration in the 60's.

The George Mason Patriots beat William and Mary by 22 points, with Evans scoring 23 points (so far his season high). For the season, Evans is among the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) leaders with 18.6 points and 9.5 rebounds per contest, a 59.1 shooting percentage from the field, 23 blocked shots and 32 steals. For his career, he ranks first in George Mason history with 191 blocked shots, second with 193 steals, third with 1,681 points, fifth with 861 rebounds and 17th with 193 assists.

(Sgt. Jorge E. Restrepo, 214th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, contributed to this story. Maj. Walton was a member of Task Force Ten, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve, at the time this article was written.)

Ten years after the storm

GMU "Patriots" and ta

(Bottom left) Nancy Shaw, Gulf War veteran and assistant professor of Information Systems at GMU's school of management, poses with her 8-year-old daughter, Claire. In 1990, Shaw was an Army Reserve captain and Individual Mobilization Augmentee assigned to the J-2 section of U.S. Central Command. (Top left) Before the game, Brig. Gen. Michael Beasley, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (wearing beret, center) presents plaques of appreciation to GMU President Dr. Alan Merten (left), City of Fairfax Council Member Chap Petersen, Desert Shield/Storm veterans Nancy Shawand George Evans, star player of the GMU Patriots basketball team (right). (Above) Brig. Gen. Beasley, (center), poses with Army Reserve volunteers who participated in the commemorative event at George Mason University's Patriot Center. (l-r) Army Reserve Recruiter Sgt. Teddy Wakeman, Sgt. Maj. Beth Lyle, Maj. Mike Walton, Brig. Gen. Beasley, Lt. Col. Jeff Keane, Lt. Col. Randy Pullen and Sgt. 1st Class Troy Falardeau.

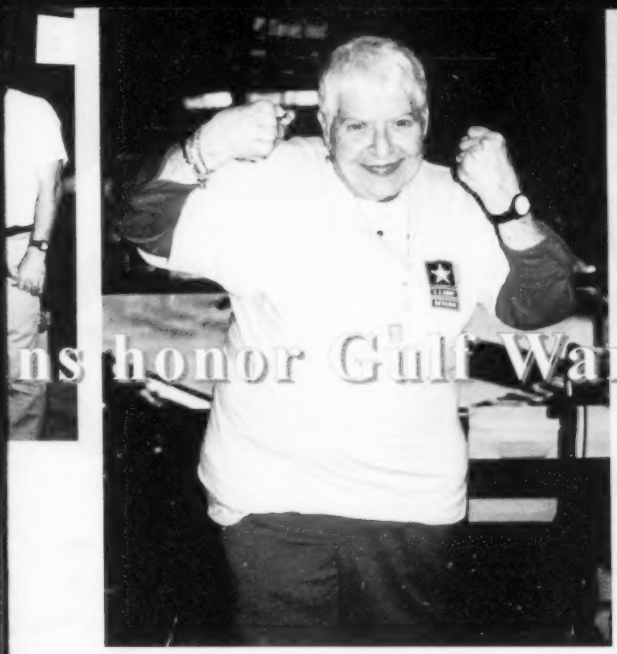
By Maj. Mike Walton

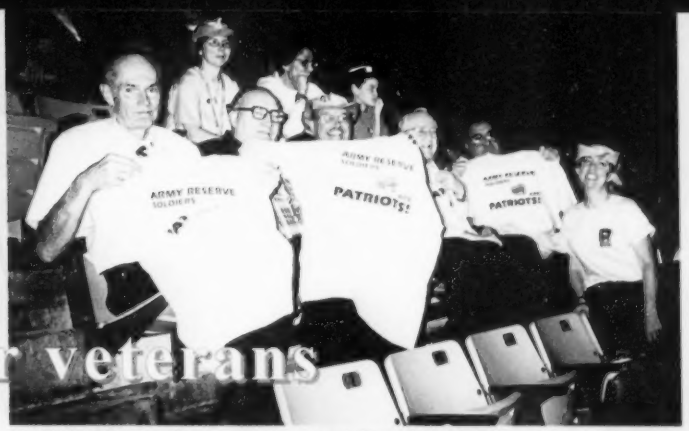
FAIRFAX, Va. (Feb. 10, 2001)—George Mason University, the City of Fairfax, Virginia and the Army Reserve all teamed up recently to honor veterans of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The venue for this special evening was the University's Patriot Center, a hub of community activities as well as the home to the University's basketball team.

"Army Reserve Night" was organized with the cooperation of the University's events and athletics departments and Sgt. 1st Class Troy Falardeau, the National Exhibit Program Manager for the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate (OCAR-PALD). He met with events and athletics officials at the school and coordinated the evening with assistance from Task Force Ten, the team coordinating all Desert Shield/Storm events and activities for the Army Reserve. Together they transformed what would otherwise be just another night for soldiers to see a ball game into a highlight of the National Capital Region's observance — "Ten Years After the Storm."

Falardeau and the Task Force worked hard to make the night a special night for the entire Army family, not just the Army Reserve. The University provided a block of tickets for this Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) event and the tickets were distributed to Army Reservists living within the area, Reserve units, recruiting commands, veteran's groups, ROTC detachments, the 3rd Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) and the National Guard Bureau. Distinguished veterans from the U.S. Soldiers and Airmen's Home were also special guests for the evening.

Volunteers distributing yel-





(Left) Birdie Geifer, a resident of the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home in Washington, D.C. shows her "Hoo-ah" spirit as she models her new Army Reserve shirt. She, along with several other residents of the home, were special guests of the Army Reserve at the game. Each was given a t-shirt with the new U.S. Army Reserve logo on the front and "Army Reserve Soldiers are PATRIOTS" on the back. (Above from left to right) Philip Uhlmann, Sgt. 1st Class Donna Hairston, Ed Woessner, Lt. Col. Dennis Saltzman, Lee Corkill, Daniel Gallucci, and Sgt. Maj. Pamela Townsend.

low ribbons, Reserve information and literature wore tan tee shirts with the wording "Army Reserve Soldiers Are PATRIOTS!" Other volunteers were at the doors handing out copies of Army Reserve Magazine and entry forms for a halftime contest song contest entitled "Sounds of Desert Storm."

The presence of George Evans, a Desert Storm veteran and the starting forward for GMU's basketball team, added to the evening's excitement. An Army Reservist from Portsmouth, Va., Evans drew media attention the week prior to the game when he was profiled by USA TODAY.

While Evans did not want to talk much about his Gulf War experiences, he did talk about how he felt about the Army – and teamwork stressing that like basketball, the Army is based upon teamwork.

"Everyone has a story," he said, "Mine isn't any better than theirs."

Representing the Chief, Army Reserve during the pregame ceremony was Brig. Gen. Michael Beasley, who serves as Deputy Commanding General of the Army's Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (USACAPOC) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Beasley, an attorney working in the Fairfax area, felt it was a grand honor to stand-in for the Chief.

Dressed in the original "chocolate chip" uniform many soldiers wore ten years ago during the conflict, Beasley presented special plaques to Dr. Alan Merten, George Mason University President and to J. Chapman (Chap) Petersen, representing the City of Fairfax for their support of the Army Reserve and Reservists throughout the years. He also presented special Tenth Anniversary mementos to Evans and Capt. Nancy Shaw, a member of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR).

Shaw is currently the assistant professor of Information Systems at GMU's School of Management. She served in the Central Command during Desert Storm at McDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla.

"When you talk about the Gulf War, most of the students don't know much about it, they don't remember it," said Shaw. "It was a very difficult time for us with lots of coffee and little sleep."

Beasley then addressed the audience of more than 4,000 and asked them not to forget the service and sacrifices of those men and women who served during Desert Shield and Storm, as well as those men and women who are currently stationed around the world.

"Let us always remember those veterans and members of the Army Reserve who did not return from Desert Storm." Brig. Gen. Beasley added.

With a color guard backdrop provided by the 99th Regional Support Command, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Whitfield from OCAR's Comptroller and Financial Management Directorate sang the National Anthem to start the game.

Undoubtedly, the star of the evening was George Evans – a communications major, star basketball player and Gulf War veteran.

"George has meant so much to this school. He's confident and proud of his time in the Army," said Merten, who was an Air Force aide during the Johnson Administration in the 60's.

The George Mason Patriots beat William and Mary by 22 points, with Evans scoring 23 points (so far his season high). For the season, Evans is among the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) leaders with 18.6 points and 9.5 rebounds per contest, a 59.1 shooting percentage from the field, 23 blocked shots and 32 steals. For his career, he ranks first in George Mason history with 191 blocked shots, second with 193 steals, third with 1,681 points, fifth with 861 rebounds and 17th with 193 assists.

(Sgt. Jorge E. Restrepo, 214th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, contributed to this story. Maj. Walton was a member of Task Force Ten, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve, at the time this article was written.)

Ten years after the storm

"Keeper of the Keys"

Unlocking father's military history during deployment

By Master Sgt. Kathy D. Wright

When the Army Reserve's 800th Military Police (Enemy Prisoner of War) Brigade mobilized for Operation Desert Storm ten years ago, unit member Lt. Col. Ted Szakmary had no idea his trip to Southwest Asia would uncover facts about his own father's war experiences 55 years before – as a Hungarian POW of the American forces.

What the Long Island, N.Y., resident did know was the treatment he provided the prisoners in his charge during this deployment would make a difference in the lives of countless people long after the conflict ended. Personal experience had taught Szakmary that. Because of the humane manner he experienced at the hands of U.S. soldiers during World War II, his father immigrated to America with his wife and son. It was the beginning of a journey that would come full circle.

Brig. Gen. Ted Szakmary during Operation Desert Storm

During his eight-month deployment to Saudi Arabia, Szakmary, who is currently commander of the 220th Military Police Brigade of Gaithersburg, Md., was responsible for the accounting and care of nearly 70,000 captured Iraqis. The North Babylon schoolteacher coordinated closely with officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross, one of whom provided a crucial link to World War II POW records and the key to unlocking information on Szakmary's father who had passed away in 1955.

"I was only eight years old when my father died," explained Szakmary, "and all I really knew about what had happened to him during the war was just bits and pieces. Ironically it wasn't until I arrived in the Persian Gulf that I was able to fill in some of the gaps – thanks to Luca Piazia."

Piazia, a Red Cross senior agent, knew just where to look for the details. His own Italian grandfather had been a prisoner of war of the Americans at about the same time. When learning of their mutual experience, he offered his help and the resources of an organization that had been tracking the status of prisoners of war for more than 100 years. Piazia's search produced a copy of the senior Szakmary's capture card – a form of identification – and other previously unknown facts.

"What I discovered is that my father worked as a Hungarian border guard before joining the ranks of the nationalized police in 1939," recalled the now Army Reserve brigadier general. "He eventually went to the Eastern front and fought near Stalingrad before his artillery unit was forced to retreat. In the process of fleeing to Germany, he surrendered to an element of Patton's 3rd Army and was interned near Nuremberg."

The records show Szakmary's father became a camp cook, while his wife-to-be worked just outside the camp's gates as a seamstress. After 18 months of captivity, the prisoners were given an ultimatum – return home or stay on in the camp. The choice was apparently easy for the battle-weary soldier.

"The one thing I remember my father saying was that the U.S. troops treated the prisoners as best they could. It made a life-long impression on him," added Szakmary. "He would never return to his homeland, and I believe his positive memories, while being held by the Americans, were the reason he headed to America."

Categorized as "displaced persons," the Szakmarys' odyssey took them to the Boston area. Ted graduated from Ohio State University and received his commission as a 2nd lieutenant in 1969. More than three decades later, he still recalls his commitment and motivation to put on a military uniform at the time U.S. forces were serving in Vietnam.

"It may sound cliché, but I felt a need to pay this great nation back for giving my family the opportunity to live the American dream," recounted the father of three. "And I think my father would be not only surprised, but pleased, to know I played a role in handling the POWs during Desert Storm – that I became the 'keeper of the keys.'"

According to Szakmary, the good treatment the American MPs became renown for among the Iraqi troops was due in large part to the brigade members themselves.

"Those interned at our camps were treated the same way we would want our soldiers provided for if taken prisoner. The Iraqis were fed before our own soldiers and administered the same quality of medical care," he stressed. "I think it was, and is, important to treat any prisoners of war like another country's patriots. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our MPs, I know that to have been the case during the Gulf War."

In memory of his father's experience, Szakmary continues to share the message he believes all Americans, particularly those who are charged with the care of enemy troops, cannot afford to forget.

"Once a soldier becomes a prisoner, the healing process of war begins. POWs will eventually return home and they will remember the kind of treatment they were subjected to. Those feelings are handed down through the generations," he concluded. "I serve as a testimonial to the truth of that statement. God bless America."

(Master Sgt. Wright was a member of Task Force Ten, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve, at the time this article was written)

A Look Back

Editor's Note: During the 10th anniversary commemoration of Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm (August 22, 2000 to June 10, 2001), this feature will be found inside each edition of the Army Reserve magazine. It will contain one or more historical items about the Army Reserve's participation during the Persian Gulf Conflict. Lt. Col. Randy Pullen is with the Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve and writes the historical pieces.

Presidential call-up

On August 22, 1990, President Bush authorized the call-up of Selected Reserve units and individuals for Operation DESERT SHIELD. More than 84,000 Army Reserve soldiers went on to provide combat support and combat service support to the Army in the Persian Gulf and stateside.

Activating units

On August 27, 1990, Army Reserve units begin activating for Operation DESERT SHIELD. Hundreds of Army Reservists had already volunteered and been placed on active duty, knowing how critical their skills were for any build-up. Reserve units, especially power projection units, were called up in order to move the Army to the Persian Gulf. Other types of units were mobilized as well. The first Army Reserve unit mobilized was the 46th Judge Advocate General Detachment (International Law Team), Boston, Mass., which was quickly deployed to Saudi Arabia and served as the legal staff for the 22nd Support Command. The case of Army Reserve lawyers illustrates how Army Reserve capabilities are needed at both ends of any deployment: The deployed commander and the troops in the theater of operations have numerous legal needs, of course, but there are a number of legal issues -- such as the preparation of wills and powers of attorney -- that must be taken care of before soldiers can move from home station in the United States.

USARC established

In the middle of the biggest mobilization of the Army Reserve in a generation, an important development takes place in the organizational structure of the Army Reserve. The U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) is provisionally established on October 1, 1990. One year later, USARC becomes a Major Subordinate Command of Forces Command (FORSCOM). The following year, on October 1, 1992, USARC assumes command of all Army Reserve units, less special operations forces and those Army Reserve units outside the continental United States.

Ten years after the storm

"Keeper of the Keys"

Unlocking father's military history during deployment

By Master Sgt. Kathy D. Wright

When the Army Reserve's 800th Military Police (Enemy Prisoner of War) Brigade mobilized for Operation Desert Storm ten years ago, unit member Lt. Col. Ted Szakmary had no idea his trip to Southwest Asia would uncover facts about his own father's war experiences 55 years before – as a Hungarian POW of the American forces.

What the Long Island, N.Y., resident did know was the treatment he provided the prisoners in his charge during this deployment would make a difference in the lives of countless people long after the conflict ended. Personal experience had taught Szakmary that. Because of the humane manner he experienced at the hands of U.S. soldiers during World War II, his father immigrated to America with his wife and son. It was the beginning of a journey that would come full circle.

Brig. Gen. Ted Szakmary during Operation Desert Storm

During his eight-month deployment to Saudi Arabia, Szakmary, who is currently commander of the 220th Military Police Brigade of Gaithersburg, Md., was responsible for the accounting and care of nearly 70,000 captured Iraqis. The North Babylon schoolteacher coordinated closely with officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross, one of whom provided a crucial link to World War II POW records and the key to unlocking information on Szakmary's father who had passed away in 1955.

"I was only eight years old when my father died," explained Szakmary, "and all I really knew about what had happened to him during the war was just bits and pieces. Ironically it wasn't until I arrived in the Persian Gulf that I was able to fill in some of the gaps – thanks to Luca Piazia."

Piazia, a Red Cross senior agent, knew just where to look for the details. His own Italian grandfather had been a prisoner of war of the Americans at about the same time. When learning of their mutual experience, he offered his help and the resources of an organization that had been tracking the status of prisoners of war for more than 100 years. Piazia's search produced a copy of the senior Szakmary's capture card – a form of identification – and other previously unknown facts.

"What I discovered is that my father worked as a Hungarian border guard before joining the ranks of the nationalized police in 1939," recalled the now Army Reserve brigadier general. "He eventually went to the Eastern front and fought near Stalingrad before his artillery unit was forced to retreat. In the process of fleeing to Germany, he surrendered to an element of Patton's 3rd Army and was interned near Nuremberg."

The records show Szakmary's father became a camp cook, while his wife-to-be worked just outside the camp's gates as a seamstress. After 18 months of captivity, the prisoners were given an ultimatum – return home or stay on in the camp. The choice was apparently easy for the battle-weary soldier.

"The one thing I remember my father saying was that the U.S. troops treated the prisoners as best they could. It made a life-long impression on him," added Szakmary. "He would never return to his homeland, and I believe his positive memories, while being held by the Americans, were the reason he headed to America."

Categorized as "displaced persons," the Szakmarys' odyssey took them to the Boston area. Ted graduated from Ohio State University and received his commission as a 2nd lieutenant in 1969. More than three decades later, he still recalls his commitment and motivation to put on a military uniform at the time U.S. forces were serving in Vietnam.

"It may sound cliché, but I felt a need to pay this great nation back for giving my family the opportunity to live the American dream," recounted the father of three. "And I think my father would be not only surprised, but pleased, to know I played a role in handling the POWs during Desert Storm – that I became the 'keeper of the keys.'"

According to Szakmary, the good treatment the American MPs became renown for among the Iraqi troops was due in large part to the brigade members themselves.

"Those interned at our camps were treated the same way we would want our soldiers provided for if taken prisoner. The Iraqis were fed before our own soldiers and administered the same quality of medical care," he stressed. "I think it was, and is, important to treat any prisoners of war like another country's patriots. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our MPs, I know that to have been the case during the Gulf War."

In memory of his father's experience, Szakmary continues to share the message he believes all Americans, particularly those who are charged with the care of enemy troops, cannot afford to forget.

"Once a soldier becomes a prisoner, the healing process of war begins. POWs will eventually return home and they will remember the kind of treatment they were subjected to. Those feelings are handed down through the generations," he concluded. "I serve as a testimonial to the truth of that statement. God bless America."

(Master Sgt. Wright was a member of Task Force Ten, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve, at the time this article was written)

A Look Back

Editor's Note: During the 10th anniversary commemoration of Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm (August 22, 2000 to June 10, 2001), this feature will be found inside each edition of the Army Reserve magazine. It will contain one or more historical items about the Army Reserve's participation during the Persian Gulf Conflict. Lt. Col. Randy Pullen is with the Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve and writes the historical pieces.

Presidential call-up

On August 22, 1990, President Bush authorized the call-up of Selected Reserve units and individuals for Operation DESERT SHIELD. More than 84,000 Army Reserve soldiers went on to provide combat support and combat service support to the Army in the Persian Gulf and stateside.

Activating units

On August 27, 1990, Army Reserve units begin activating for Operation DESERT SHIELD. Hundreds of Army Reservists had already volunteered and been placed on active duty, knowing how critical their skills were for any build-up. Reserve units, especially power projection units, were called up in order to move the Army to the Persian Gulf. Other types of units were mobilized as well. The first Army Reserve unit mobilized was the 46th Judge Advocate General Detachment (International Law Team), Boston, Mass., which was quickly deployed to Saudi Arabia and served as the legal staff for the 22nd Support Command. The case of Army Reserve lawyers illustrates how Army Reserve capabilities are needed at both ends of any deployment: The deployed commander and the troops in the theater of operations have numerous legal needs, of course, but there are a number of legal issues -- such as the preparation of wills and powers of attorney -- that must be taken care of before soldiers can move from home station in the United States.

USARC established

In the middle of the biggest mobilization of the Army Reserve in a generation, an important development takes place in the organizational structure of the Army Reserve. The U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) is provisionally established on October 1, 1990. One year later, USARC becomes a Major Subordinate Command of Forces Command (FORSCOM). The following year, on October 1, 1992, USARC assumes command of all Army Reserve units, less special operations forces and those Army Reserve units outside the continental United States.

Medal of Honor

Father and Son Citizen-Soldiers decorated for valor

By Lt. Col. Randy Pullen

President Bill Clinton presented a posthumous Medal of Honor to the great grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt January 16, more than 56 years after Roosevelt's son posthumously received the same decoration.

The elder Roosevelt received his for his actions during the Spanish-American War at San Juan Hill, Cuba, on July 1, 1898, while in command of the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, better known as the Rough Riders. Then a lieutenant colonel, Roosevelt led the Rough Riders up San Juan Hill and into the pages of American history. Today's presentation makes him the first U.S. President to be a Medal of Honor recipient.

His son, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., received his for his actions during World War II at Utah Beach, France, on June 6, 1944, while serving as assistant division commander of the 4th Infantry Division. Then a brigadier general, Roosevelt was in the first wave at Utah Beach. He was the first general officer to land on a Normandy Beach on D-Day.

The Roosevelts are the second set of father and son Medal of Honor recipients in U.S. military history. The first pair was Arthur and Douglas MacArthur. Arthur MacArthur received his for his courage at Missionary Ridge, Tennessee, during the Civil War. His son, Douglas, received his during World War II for his defense of Bataan and Corregidor.

Arthur MacArthur was a volunteer soldier in a Wisconsin regiment at Missionary Ridge but joined the Regular Army after the Civil War. Douglas MacArthur was a Regular Army officer throughout his career.

(Below) Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Commanding Officer of the 1st U.S. (Right) The Volunteer Cavalry Regiment known as the Rough Riders, and Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt (center) pose atop San Juan Hill in Cuba after one of the most famous charges in American history.

The father

Theodore Roosevelt resigned his post as Assistant Secretary of the Navy at the beginning of the Spanish-American War to accept a commission as a lieutenant colonel in the Rough Riders, which he helped recruit, organize, train and lead to Cuba. When the regimental commander,

Col. Leonard Wood, also a Medal of Honor recipient, was promoted to brigade command in Cuba, Roosevelt stepped up to command the Rough Riders.

Roosevelt led the Rough Riders up Kettle Hill and San Juan Hill on July 1, 1898. The charge up San Juan Hill became one of the most celebrated feats in American history and Roosevelt became one of the most famous men in America. This helped him to become governor of New York in 1898 and President William McKinley's running mate in 1900. After McKinley was assassinated in 1901, Roosevelt became President of the United States. He was 42 years old.

He was elected in his own right in 1904 and is recognized as one of the most dynamic Presidents this country has ever had. He was also the first American to win the Nobel Peace Prize, which he did in 1906 for his role in

ending the Russo-Japanese War of 1905.

He left the White House in 1909 but he ran for President again in 1912 as a third party candidate. Woodrow Wilson won that year. He volunteered to raise and lead a volunteer division to France in 1917 but President Woodrow Wilson turned him down. All four of his sons fought in combat in World War I and his daughter served as a Red Cross nurse in France. The youngest son, Quentin, was killed in action as a fighter pilot on July 14, 1918.

The old Rough Rider died on January 6, 1919, at the age of 60.

The son

Photo courtesy National Archives

Roosevelt's service as a citizen-soldier lasted for a few months in 1898. His son's service in the Organized Reserves, as the Army Reserve was then called, lasted more than 25 years, from before World War I until his death during World War II.

Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., served in combat in both world wars, earning every combat decoration available to a ground soldier. During World War I, he commanded a battalion of the 26th U.S. Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, and then the regiment itself. He was gassed and severely wounded during combat in France. He was decorated five times.

Recalled to active duty in April 1941, Roosevelt first commanded his old World War I regiment, until his promotion to brigadier general. He then became the assistant division commander of the 1st Infantry Division.

He served with the Big Red One throughout the North African and Sicily campaigns until both he and the division commander, Maj. Gen. Terry de la Mesa Allen, were relieved by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. They were both recognized as outstanding combat leaders and their reliefs were "without prejudice." Eisenhower felt these two veteran and proven commanders were tired and needed a rest from combat. Both returned to combat leadership positions soon with Allen as commander of the 104th Infantry Division (Organized Reserve) and Roosevelt as assistant division commander of the 4th Infantry Division.

When Roosevelt came to the 4th Division, it was preparing for a key role on D-Day, an assault landing on Utah Beach. Roosevelt insisted on going in with the first wave to "steady the boys." Maj. Gen. Raymond Barton, the division commander, recognized that Roosevelt was considered one of the bravest men in the U.S. Army. Barton believed Roosevelt's presence could be a steadying influence for the assault troops so he eventually granted his request, though he thought he was sending the 56-year-old Roosevelt to his death.

Brig. Gen. Teddy Roosevelt, Jr., Assistant Division Commander of the 4th Infantry Division, in his jeep -- named in honor of his father -- in Normandy, July 1944. Note the bullet hole in the windshield.

Leading the way

On the morning of June 6, 1944, Roosevelt landed with the first wave on Utah Beach. He seemed to be everywhere, rallying hesitant soldiers and leading groups of men inland, despite German small arms, mortar and artillery fire. His lack of concern for his own safety inspired his troops.

He also made an important command decision. Realizing the first wave had been landed at the wrong place, he directed the follow-up waves to land behind the first wave, rather than adjusting to the correct landing spot. The original spot was heavily defended and this decision prevented Utah Beach from turning into the bloodbath that Omaha Beach was.

For his courage and leadership on D-Day, Roosevelt received the Medal of Honor. By the time it was awarded, on September 28, 1944, he was dead. Roosevelt, who had a bad heart and should not have been anywhere near a combat zone, died of a heart attack in Normandy on July 12.

He never knew that he had been selected that same day to take command of the 90th Infantry Division (Organized Reserve).

On the 50th anniversary of his service and death in Normandy in 1994, the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve, created its highest award for service to the Army Reserve. It is called the Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Memorial Award.

Army Reservists have been rightfully proud of the service and achievements of Teddy Roosevelt, Jr., and most Americans have considered his father to be one of our greatest Presidents. Today, there is one more reason to take note of this extraordinary pair of citizen-soldiers.

(Lt. Col. Pullen is with the Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve)

Rails to Trails

Story & Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Kappmeyer

CRANE, Ind.—The biggest challenge facing the 226th Transportation Company isn't usually the training. It's finding a place to train.

As Sgt. 1st Class Robert Teague said, "You can't just go anywhere and pull up track."

Teague, a platoon sergeant for the 226th Trans. Co., is the noncommissioned officer in charge of one of the good training opportunities the unit has found — the project known here as "Rails to Trails."

The 226th, and the company's Detachment 1 from Joliet, Ill., are working with officials at the Navel Surface Warfare Center in Crane, Ind., as part of a test to determine the cost of removing stretches of railroad near ammunition storage facilities. During the test, more than 6,150 feet of railroad leading to the explosive storage areas must be removed and replaced by low maintenance gravel roads.

"'Rails to Trails' was initiated by the Army because of the high-maintenance cost associated with repairing and maintaining railroad track, which costs about $2.1 million annually at Crane," said David Brown, disaster preparedness officer and the Reserve coordinator for the center.

The Army decided ammunition that needed to be shipped quickly could be moved more efficiently by loading the ammunition into containers at the storage areas and moving the containers on trucks to rail heads, said Teague, who also works for Union Pacific Railroad in St. Louis.

The Army isn't the only beneficiary of the project. "The Reserve relevance is twofold," Brown said. "The Reserve is doing the test bed of actually removing the rail so the SeaBees can build the roads to the magazines (ammunition storage facilities)."

What that means to the Crane and the U. S. taxpayer, said Brown, is that instead of paying a contractor about $400,000 to do

(Above) Spec. Luis Ortiz, Det. 1, 226th Trans. Company, disposes of railroad spikes while helping remove railroad track in support of the "Rails to Trails" project at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane, Ind. (Right) Pfc. Derrick Selders, Det. 1, 226th Trans. Company, uses a tie tong to move a 12-foot, 300-pound railroad tie in support of the "Rails to Trails" project at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane, Ind.

the job, the Army Reserve does it for about $80,000.

Crane, located on 63,000 acres in southern Indiana, is planning to remove about 60 miles of rail over a five-year period. The cost of the project, as estimated by the Military Traffic Management Command Engineering Agency, is about $16 million if done by a civilian contractor and about $4 million if the Army Reserve completes the job. Removing selected areas of rail should also reduce annual maintenance costs by about one-third, said Brown. The base is jointly maintained with the Army and Navy sharing costs.

"We would seriously be hindered in doing our wartime mission without the support of the United States Army Reserve — it's a win/win situation for everyone," said Brown.

The soldiers of the 226th echo the win/win attitude. During the February weekend drill held at Crane, the unit had the highest drill attendance since 1st Lt. Vanna Brackney took command of the 226th.

"If you employ the soldier to do the job you hired him to do, then he will be glad to do it," she reasoned.

Brackney, an accident reconstruction engineer who specializes in railroad accidents and equipment failures, has lived this belief, traveling from her home in Grand Prairie, Texas, to drill with the 226th in Granite City, Ill., and prior to that, to Milwaukee, Wis. where she drilled with the 757th Transportation Battalion, the headquarters for the 226th.

After moving to Texas, "I originally continued to drill with the 757th because I wanted to be in a rail battalion and the only other rail battalion is in Connecticut," she said. "I stay in the rail battalion because these are incredible soldiers. They have unique experiences and abilities."

Not only are the soldiers unique, the unit is too. The 757th Trans. Bn. is the only Tier 1 railroad transportation unit in the Army, Teague said. The unit emphasizes cross training its soldiers in each of the three railroad-related specialties: including track maintenance, train crewman and railway equipment repair.

The opportunity for good training has motivated the 226th soldiers, including Pfc. Michael Conner, 19, of Belleville, Ill.

"It's always been in me to be a hard worker," said Conner, a crew leader. "With hard work comes the sense of fulfillment that you actually have accomplished something, and it's even more satisfying when you do it as a team."

Spec. Luis Ortiz (foreground), Detachment 1, 226th Transportation Company, loosens rails as members of his unit remove railroad track near an ammunition storage facility.

Working on the project has helped Conner in other areas too.

"The confidence I gain in the Reserve helps me at my civilian job," said Conner. "It gives me a sense of pride and accomplishment to [take] the discipline and teamwork I learn here, and use it out there."

Brackney has seen the discipline and teamwork, and appreciates it. As an indication of what these soldiers mean to her, she reaches deep into her uniform pocket and pulls out a handful of nails.

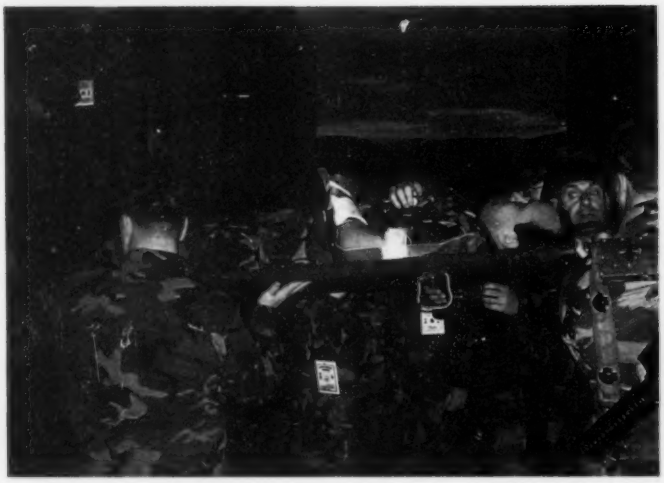
"These are date nails," Brackney said. "See the 31 on the nail? That means the nail was made in 1931." The nails are put into railroad ties so the tie's age can be determined.

She plans on polishing the nails and mounting them on plaques so she can present them to some of her soldiers who have been "working their butts off." It's a reminder to the soldiers of the 226th Trans. Co. and Detachment 1 of the training experience — and acknowledgement that "you can't just go anywhere and pull up track."

(Sgt. 1st Class Kappmeyer is with the 350th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Indianapolis, Ind.)

Frontier Warr

Army Reserve soldiers train for



Photos by Dave Conklin

(Above) Nurses from the Army Reserve's 4225th U.S. army Hospital supervise transport of mock mass casualty victims from the mock air crash. (Right) Medics pull a trapped crash victim from mock vehicle car crash.

By Master Sgt. Thomas and Staff Sgt. Conklin

FORT HARRISON, Mont.—As Army Reserve and National Guard (NG) units take on more of the Army's peacekeeping operations in places like Bosnia and Kosovo, integrated training exercises like the recently completed "Frontier Warrior" here are taking on more of a Balkan flavor.

Frontier Warrior, sponsored and controlled by 5th U.S. Army's 91st Training Support Division (TSD) in Colorado, brought together seven U.S. Army Reserve and Guard units from across the state of Montana to test their skills in combat and combat service support operations using a Balkan scenario last fall.

The exercise was one of the first service support scenarios in the nation to include units from all Army components working together on mission accomplishment. Exercise organizers said it's a matter of taking Reserve Component training in the same direction the rest of the Army is going.

"The 116th "E" (Enhanced) Brigade from Idaho (NG) is going to Bosnia soon so it's these scenarios on the horizon," said Army Reserve Maj. John Silverstein, 2d Battalion, 360th Training Support Brigade (TSB), 91st TSD and support operations officer for Frontier Warrior.

"Other soldiers in the participating units have served in Bosnia," he noted. "The direction the Army is going is more a peacekeeping force. So we look at current operations, the way the Army is going and we train troops that way."

"We can't afford to see the Guard and Reserve as separate units. We're all the same nowadays. So the focus is on integrated training, coming together and setting ourselves up for success in the future," said Silverstein.

Army Reserve units that participated in Frontier Warrior included the 652nd Area Support Group, 50th Military History, 4225th Army Hospital, and 478th Personnel Service Battalion.

Necessary training

Just this year troops from the 49th Armored Division of the Texas National Guard assumed command of the American forces in Bosnia, becoming the first guard division to head an overseas mission since the Korean War.

Silverstein said Guard and Reserve troops like those at Frontier Warrior aren't assigned directly to combat units, so they welcome the opportunity to train on their critical combat support skills.

The units were tested in scenarios that included mock building fires, vehicle and air crashes, hospital, history and public affairs operations, as well as personnel and re-supply tasks. One firefighter Pvt. Jon Poe, a high school student and recent boot camp graduate

Photos by Dave Conklin

Photo by Sgt. Maj. David Grubb

(Left) In this simulated accident scene, 1049th firefighters perform first aid on car crash victim while team chief calls for ambulance evacuation. (Above) Medics treat mock crash victim from the Army Reserve's 4225th U.S. Army Hospital. (Bottom) Capt. Rolland Ellis, one of the Army Reserve's 4225th U.S. Army Hospital nurses, responds to a mock helicopter casualty.

summed up the exercise after three bone-tiring days. "The make-up on the crash victims looked very realistic and they had the mock crashes set up well. I also learned how to get ready for things fast," said Poe.

"This exercise increases every year in part because soldiers are out in the streets talking to soldiers from other units about how its such a great exercise," said Silverstein. He added that support from Montana military leadership is also responsible for Frontier Warrior's continued growth: from five units in 1999 to seven units this year, with more anticipated in 2001.

(Master Sgt. Thomas is with the Fifth Army Public Affairs, and Staff Sgt. Conklin is with Detachment 2, 111th Press Camp, Montana National Guard)

Photo by SSG Dave Conklin

Exercise Frontier Warrior cements "One-Army" relationships

By Col. Dennis Drake
and
Staff Sgt. David Conklin

HELENA, Mont.—"Medic 19…Medic 19, we've got a Huey down, grid 28453746 – guys injured everywhere, over!" This frantic radio called broke the silence at the U.S Army Reserve's 4225th Hospital at Exercise Frontier Warrior 2000 in the western Montana desert.

"Roger, we're responding now," came the reply as soldiers scrambled towards waiting ambulances, grabbing their Kevlar helmets and M-16s to take part in a training exercise involving a simulated accident. Simultaneously, the Montana Army National Guard's 1049th Firefighting Company sent three fire trucks racing to the downed aircraft. As the firefighters arrived, soldiers jumped out in silver fire protective clothing, pulling hoses and laying down streams of water around the helicopter. Other firefighters worked their way towards the injured soldiers in the aircraft, carefully accessing the situation.

Army Reserve ambulances arrived on the scene. Working together, medics and firefighters removed the less serious from the aircraft, stabilizing them on the ground before rushing them to the hospital. The more seriously injured, suffering from severe head and neck injuries, were left on the aircraft and stabilized.

As the ambulances arrived at the hospital, both doctors and nurses off loaded the patients and performed an immediate triage on the cement ramp leading to the

See WARRIOR, page 63

Frontier Warr

Army Reserve soldiers train for

Photos by Dave Conklin

(Above) Nurses from the Army Reserve's 4225th U.S. army Hospital supervise transport of mock mass casualty victims from the mock air crash. (Right) Medics pull a trapped crash victim from mock vehicle car crash.

By Master Sgt. Thomas and Staff Sgt. Conklin

FORT HARRISON, Mont.—As Army Reserve and National Guard (NG) units take on more of the Army's peacekeeping operations in places like Bosnia and Kosovo, integrated training exercises like the recently completed "Frontier Warrior" here are taking on more of a Balkan flavor.

Frontier Warrior, sponsored and controlled by 5th U.S. Army's 91st Training Support Division (TSD) in Colorado, brought together seven U.S. Army Reserve and Guard units from across the state of Montana to test their skills in combat and combat service support operations using a Balkan scenario last fall.

The exercise was one of the first service support scenarios in the nation to include units from all Army components working together on mission accomplishment. Exercise organizers said it's a matter of taking Reserve Component training in the same direction the rest of the Army is going.

"The 116th "E" (Enhanced) Brigade from Idaho (NG) is going to Bosnia soon so it's these scenarios on the horizon," said Army Reserve Maj. John Silverstein, 2d Battalion, 360th Training Support Brigade (TSB), 91st TSD and support operations officer for Frontier Warrior.

"Other soldiers in the participating units have served in Bosnia," he noted. "The direction the Army is going is more a peacekeeping force. So we look at current operations, the way the Army is going and we train troops that way,"

"We can't afford to see the Guard and Reserve as separate units. We're all the same nowadays. So the focus is on integrated training, coming together and setting ourselves up for success in the future," said Silverstein.

Army Reserve units that participated in Frontier Warrior included the 652nd Area Support Group, 50th Military History, 4225th Army Hospital, and 478th Personnel Service Battalion.

Necessary training

Just this year troops from the 49th Armored Division of the Texas National Guard assumed command of the American forces in Bosnia, becoming the first guard division to head an overseas mission since the Korean War.

Silverstein said Guard and Reserve troops like those at Frontier Warrior aren't assigned directly to combat units, so they welcome the opportunity to train on their critical combat support skills.

The units were tested in scenarios that included mock building fires, vehicle and air crashes, hospital, history and public affairs operations, as well as personnel and re-supply tasks. One firefighter Pvt. Jon Poe, a high school student and recent boot camp graduate

Photos by Dave Conklin

Photo by Sgt. Maj. David Grubb

(Left) In this simulated accident scene, 1049th firefighters perform first aid on car crash victim while team chief calls for ambulance evacuation. (Above) Medics treat mock crash victim from the Army Reserve's 4225th U.S. Army Hospital. (Bottom) Capt. Rolland Ellis, one of the Army Reserve's 4225th U.S. Army Hospital nurses, responds to a mock helicopter casualty.

ior

peacekeeping operations

summed up the exercise after three bone-tiring days. "The make-up on the crash victims looked very realistic and they had the mock crashes set up well. I also learned how to get ready for things fast," said Poe.

"This exercise increases every year in part because soldiers are out in the streets talking to soldiers from other units about how its such a great exercise," said Silverstein. He added that support from Montana military leadership is also responsible for Frontier Warrior's continued growth: from five units in 1999 to seven units this year, with more anticipated in 2001.

(Master Sgt. Thomas is with the Fifth Army Public Affairs, and Staff Sgt. Conklin is with Detachment 2, 111th Press Camp, Montana National Guard)

Photo by SSG Dave Conklin

Exercise Frontier Warrior cements "One-Army" relationships

By Col. Dennis Drake
and
Staff Sgt. David Conklin

HELENA, Mont.—"Medic 19…Medic 19, we've got a Huey down, grid 28453746 – guys injured everywhere, over!" This frantic radio called broke the silence at the U.S Army Reserve's 4225th Hospital at Exercise Frontier Warrior 2000 in the western Montana desert.

"Roger, we're responding now," came the reply as soldiers scrambled towards waiting ambulances, grabbing their Kevlar helmets and M-16s to take part in a training exercise involving a simulated accident. Simultaneously, the Montana Army National Guard's 1049th Firefighting Company sent three fire trucks racing to the downed aircraft. As the firefighters arrived, soldiers jumped out in silver fire protective clothing, pulling hoses and laying down streams of water around the helicopter. Other firefighters worked their way towards the injured soldiers in the aircraft, carefully accessing the situation.

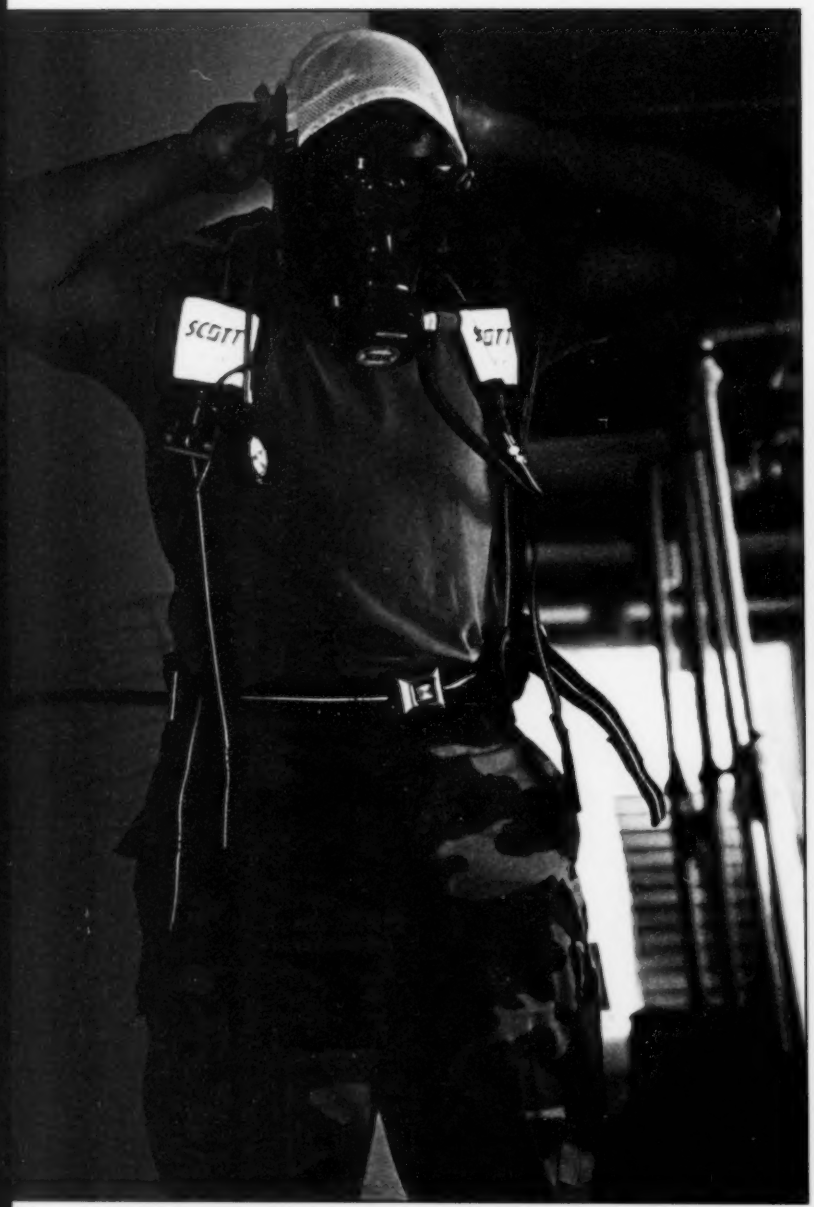
Army Reserve ambulances arrived on the scene. Working together, medics and firefighters removed the less serious from the aircraft, stabilizing them on the ground before rushing them to the hospital. The more seriously injured, suffering from severe head and neck injuries, were left on the aircraft and stabilized.

As the ambulances arrived at the hospital, both doctors and nurses off loaded the patients and performed an immediate triage on the cement ramp leading to the

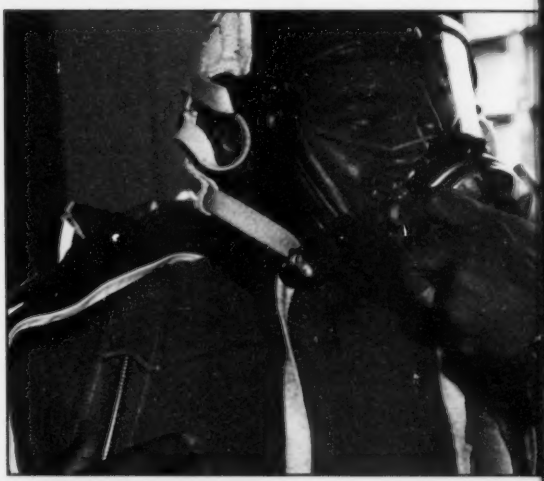
See WARRIOR, page 63

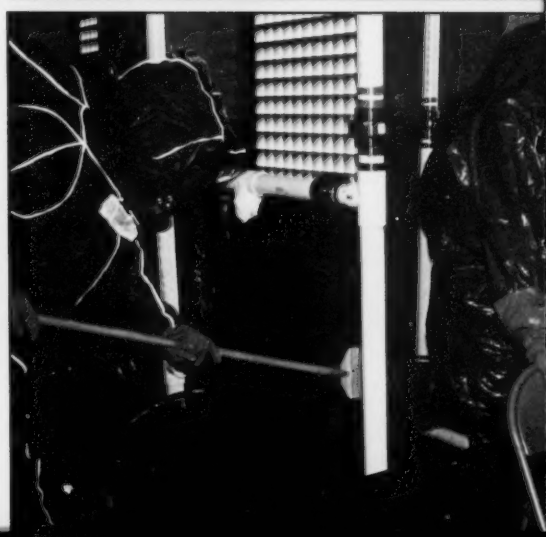
Dressing for the occasion

Chemical operations specialists don "blue moon suit" for training



Clockwise from left) Sgt. 1st Class Alden Smith, 468th Chemical Battalion. from Little Rock, Ark., adjusts his mask before the exercise begins. Spc. Derrick Williams, 392nd Chemical Recon Co., from Little Rock, Ark. leads Pfc. LaToya Northcross, also from the 392nd, leave the "hot zone." Spc. Williams uses the multi-meter to find out what chemical agents are present in the styrofoam box. Spc. Williams has his boots brushed off in the decontamination unit. Master Sgt. Reginald Goree, U.S. Army Chemical School from Fort Leonardwood, takes off his breathing apparatus after the exercise.





By Raquel Alfaro McDonald

ATLANTA—It does not look like a typical piece of Army gear, nor is it the most comfortable garment a Reservist can put on, however it could save lives and members of the Army Reserve's 392nd Chemical Reconnaissance Company donned it for some intense training at Fort McPherson's U.S. Army reserve Command (USARC) in Atlanta, Ga., in August.

Called a "blue moon suit," this protective gear wraps around the chemical operations specialist's body and seals out the rest of the world. The only thing keeping the wearers alive is an air tank on their back and the belief that the suit will come off. Wearing the 'blue moon suit' is a part of the training the International Association of Firefighters hazardous handlers' course teaches its students.

Pfc. LaToya Northcross, a chemical operations specialist with the 392nd, stepped into her 'blue moon suit' as she practiced her maneuvers in a possible chemical environment. Northcross and her comrades from the 392nd along with the 704th Chemical Reconnaissance Company and the 468th Chemical Battalion, all from Little Rock, Ark., attended a week-long course taught by the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy to learn how to detect chemical or toxic industrial agents in the environment.

Chemical reconnaissance company's personnel train to detect these agents in a military environment, but now they are learning and training with their civilian counterparts.

"The big difference between the civilians and the military (chemical reconnaissance crews) is the equipment and the language used and that's what they are learning," said Master Sgt. Robert Mihelic, chemical operations NCO, Office of the Chief of Army Reserves, Office of Strategic Initiatives.

According to Mihelic, the civilian segment uses self-contained breathing apparatus, which consists of an air tank and their Level A chemical protection suit, 'blue moon suit,' to go into a contaminated environment.

"We (Army soldiers) use the M40 protective mask and MOPP (mission oriented protective posture) gear when we go into a potentially chemical environment to find the enemy," he said.

The 40-hour week course instructs the students how the Level A chemical suit is worn, how to set-up and run a decontamination unit and the basics in detecting chemical agents in an environment.

"The scenario is quick. We will have two men be the entry team, two of you will be the back-up in case one of them gets hurt and the last two will run the decontamination unit," said Robert McCaa, senior staff instructor from the Pennsylvania Fire Academy. "This is where all your training will pay off."

"The recon unit will come in, go into the hot zone (where the chemical agent may be) and do exactly what we're doing here in this civilian side scenario to find out just what we're dealing with and how much," Mihelic said.

The scenario takes less than 20 minutes to run. The entry team treks to the third floor from the first and detects a container possibly holding chemical agents. The two members work as a team as they run different tests with their testing apparatus (colormeteric detection tubes and the multimeter) to determine if any agents are present and, if so, what the agents are. They rush back down the stairs to report the scene to the incident commander to let him know what they have seen and tested for.

"Actually doing the drill was difficult," said detachment Sgt. Alden Smith, 468th Chemical Battalion. "There is a lot of information you have to understand and remember. But the instructors taught us well. I think they have their stuff together and really know their jobs."

"Breathing in the suits took some time to get used to and dealing with the heat made me glad I was out of it quickly," Smith said.

According to Mihelic, the hazardous material handlers know their jobs are dangerous but it is training like this that gives them an edge on overcoming any fears.

(Ms. McDonald is with the USAG Fort McPherson Public Affairs Office, Atlanta, Ga.)

(Left) Sgt. Christopher McGruder, 314th Chemical Co., receives a British "application of reflectant" from 2nd Lt. Julliette Ward of the British Royal Yeomanry before patrolling exercises begin. (Above) Staff Sgt. Johnny Little, 326th Chemical Co., leads a squad of U.S soldiers and British troopers to a decontamination site for Lanes training. (Right) Spec. Rubien Montiel, 326th Chemical Co., takes a drink of water during decontamination operations.

Exercise London Pride 2000

Story and photos by Paul Adams

A tense struggle is underway in fog and drizzle at a small World War I-constructed military training camp in the southern part of the United Kingdom. But this contest has nothing to do with battlefield readiness.

Locked in a virtual stalemate with the affectionately named British "Tug-of-War girls," the U.S. Army Reserve women strain to pull their British counterparts across the designated line to victory.

Athletic competitions, a barbecue and a one-time raising of the U.S. flag over Camp Rollestone, England, kicked off a unique British-American Fourth of July celebration that set the tone for an invaluable training experience — Exercise London Pride 2000.

One hundred thirteen U.S. Army Reservists from the 415th Chemical Bde., Greenville, S.C., and four of their subordinate units and an Arkansas chemical unit, along with 106 reservists from the British Royal Yeomanry participated in London Pride. The exercise took place on Salisbury Plain, the largest of eight principal British Army training areas in the UK. Sixty-seven soldiers from the British Joint Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) Regiment also participated.

The purpose of London Pride is to train and exercise NBC defense procedures and practices, in order to develop expertise through the exchange of British and American knowledge. A reciprocal exercise, known as Alabama Star was held at Fort McClellan, Ala., in October 1998.

The 490th Chemical Bn., Anniston, Ala., headed by Lt. Col. Robin Byrom, provided command and control for London Pride 2000. "We came into this exercise thinking it was going to be three days of staff training, and it turned out to be 10 days of staff interaction and training with the British," he noted.

Because the British didn't have the infrastructure to support the Training Assessment Module (TAM) evaluation that the 490th required for their annual training, Byrom's staff, helped by 415th Chemical Bde. headquarters personnel, quickly got on board to generate the staff exercise that led to the additional training days. A TAM is the report card indicating where the unit stands at the end of each year.

"We capped this planning off with what we call Lanes training and the British call Stands. The stands are a multitude of evaluated individual tasks such as patrolling, first aid, vehicle recovery, land navigation and decontamination," Byrom said.

The U.S. soldiers from the 326th Chemical Co., Huntsville, Ala., 318th Chemical Co., Birmingham, Ala., 314th Chemical Co., Carrolton, Ga., 310th Chemical Co., Anniston, Ala., and the 392nd Chemical Co., Russellville, Ark., and British troopers from the Territorial Army were fully integrated from the beginning.

"We paired up with our British counterparts to participate in the Lanes evaluations," Byrom said.

In charge of rotating the soldiers and troopers through the

See ALLIES, page 34

ALLIES, from page 33

train-up prior to the beginning of the exercise was Staff Sgt. Darwyn Wang, British Regular Forces, who was attached to the Royal Yeomanry as a staff instructor for W Squadron. One such task was cover and concealment.

"They do some of the same basic things we do, but it is also refresher training for us. We are learning some basic things from them, such as putting on reflectant, and adding long strains of grass and weeds to our Kevlar so we will blend in well with the environment," said Spec. Chris Layne, 326th Chemical Co., while applying camouflage to his face under the watchful eye of Wang.

Byrom said the soldiers were trained on the individual tasks they were going to be evaluated on in the Lanes. "This joint training enabled our chemical specialists to go into the FTX portion prepared to operate the types of equipment the British use and accomplish the mission successfully," he said.

"This training is something different," said Cpl. Bill Lincoln, a trooper in the British Territorial Army, equivalent of a U.S. reservist. "We have been together from the start and we are integrated in accommodations and training as well."

Trooper Neil Lawes said that it was a good idea that the two countries train together. "We have been talking about how both countries are run; what it is like to drive over here and things we have in common."

"From my perspective we have learned immensely from the British," Byrom said. "One of the biggest success stories is the fact that we integrated at all levels and at the individual level our soldiers taught British and the British soldiers taught ours."

"It was important that we got together so we can work together and understand each other. We brought the people together so much quicker here - than in Alabama Star," said Capt. Christopher Sayer, with the Royal Yeomanry.

The bonding began with the Fourth of July celebration. Some of the events were nation against nation, as in the tug-of-wars, with the results of the male and female competitions in favor of the British. But soldiers and troopers united in other team events such as rugby, volleyball, tent pegging (an accuracy exercise using a saber to pop a balloon), jousting, as well as the Lanes training and the FTX.

Byrom said towards the end of the FTX, "In the beginning, the British and American soldiers were distinctively separate in some of the sporting events and doing the individual training tasks. And now when you go out into the field and look around you don't find that separation, you find them integrated; sharing ideas, experiences, and sharing family life. They share how there are differences in the United States and how we live and even the English language, how some words mean one thing to us and mean something entirely different to them. It was a wonderful experience and everyone had a great time."

Trooper Angela Williams said it best, "Yes, it has really been good fun."

(Mr. Adams is with the 81st Regional Support Command Public Affairs Office)

Photos by Paul Adams

(Left) Sgt. 1st Class David Boyette, foreground, 326th Chemical Co., pulls for all he's worth in the tug-of-war competition with troopers of the British Royal Yeomanry. (Below) Staff Sgt. David Lamb, 310th Chemical Co., carries British trooper Angela Williams in the Tent Pegging team competition. Williams used her saber to pop the balloon on a tent peg while riding toward it to test her accuracy.

19th TAACOM hosts German Armed Forces Efficiency Test Competition

ATLANTA, Ga.—More than 120 soldiers, sailors and airmen assembled at the U.S. Army Reserve's 19th Theater Army Area Command (TAACOM), Conus Augmentation in Des Moines, Iowa recently to compete in the German Armed Forces Efficiency Test 2000. The competition included competitors ranging in rank from private to major general.

"Besides the great competition, soldiers are having fun," said Lt. Col. Jose Carbon. Carbon, who earned his GAFET Gold Badge in 1998, was the coordinator for this year's competition in Des Moines. This is the third year the 19th TAACOM has hosted a GAFET competition and the first year an invitation was extended to all USARC personnel to take part.

(Above) GAFET competitors trudge along during the road march. (Left) Command Sgt. Maj. Alexander Hammer, the German Army senior enlisted liaison at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., leads the way on one of the runs during the GAFET competition.

Regarded by many military members as one of the most challenging physical fitness tests, the GAFET originated in 1971. Standards for the test were first set by the Bundesher, the West German Army. Competitors don't compete against each other but rather a standard based on age and gender, similar to the U.S. Army Physical Fitness Test. However, the GAFET has seven categories of required fitness skills compared to the three required for the U.S. APFT.

The GAFET also requires proficiency in first aid skills. To meet this requirement the competitors in Iowa successfully completed the combat lifesaving course prior to their arrival.

Category one of the GAFET is a 200-meter swim. In the second category, competitors choose between a 100-meter dash, a 400-meter dash, or a 1000-meter run. A high jump or long jump are the two choices for the third category.

The fourth category focuses on strength training and competitors choose between a shot put throw, lifting 75% of their own body weight, or a bench press. They also have the option to complete a 100-meter swim. The average time required for all the age and gender subcategories in completing this swim is around two minutes.

The fifth category requires competitors to complete a 5000-meter, 3000 meter, or 2000-meter run, or a 1000-meter swim.

Marksmanship with a 9-mm pistol is the required skill for the sixth category. The final category involves a road march with full rucksack. The distance for the road march ranges from 12 to 30 kilometers, depending on age and gender and the type medal the competitor hopes to receive.

After successfully completing each of the seven categories, finishing marks in the marksmanship and road march categories determine whether competitors receive a gold, silver or bronze medal.

"The marksmanship and the swimming were the two most challenging aspects for a lot of people," said competitor Capt. Tony Garman, of the U.S. Army Reserve Command Operations Division. Garman, who earned a gold medal, is also a member of the U.S. Military Pentathlon Team. He said he and several of his fellow pentathlon team members competed in the GAFET because of its similarities to the pentathlon.

Command Sgt. Maj. Alexander Hammer, the German Army senior enlisted liaison at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., was on-hand to oversee the competition. During the awards ceremony Hammer commented that the GAFET is normally performed over a one-year period of time, adding, "you American's are the only ones to do it in one weekend."

"It was a lot harder than I thought it would be but we were blessed with a beautiful day for the road march," said 1st Lt. Angela Peterson, a physical therapist with the Army Reserve 4224th Hospital, Des Moines. She echoed the feelings of most of the other competitors when she said, "I feel such a huge sense of accomplishment. You just don't know what you can do until you set a goal and go for it."

(Maj. Richard Smith, 19th TAACOM Public Affairs Office, contributed to this story.)

Combat Medics take th

(Left) U.S. Navy diver, HM1 Michael Surwill (left) and Sgt. Dao Pongsavong assist in guiding and lifting patient from the pool. (Below) Sgt. 1st Class Julio Cabrera provides a finance refresher classes to 338th Finance Battalion soldiers as part of the pre-deployment training.

By Major Bernard R. Cenney,

LEMOORE NAVAL AIR STATION, Calif.—You might say that 80 members of the 352nd Combat Support Hospital (Hospital Unit Surgical) from Fresno, California were wet behind the ears – that is before they took the plunge and went through a day of training few will soon forget.

They completed the Combat Medical Survival Water Course, otherwise known as COMSWC. COMSWC was the idea of the Fresno-based hospital's training section. It soon developed as a way to jointly combine U.S. Army medical training with the Naval Operational Medicine Institute Aviation Survival Training Center located at Lemoore Naval Air Station.

The course

COMSWC is approved by the California Bureau of Registered Nurses for eight continuing education credits (CEU's). Conducted annually, the training consists of classroom lecture and participation on survival at sea. It includes a combat survival swim with M16A2 rifle, BDU's and full load bearing equipment (LBE); lecture and demonstration on various issue and field expedient floatation devices found on aircraft; cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); and stabilization and egress from the water of patients utilizing backboards and swimming techniques.

Many of the soldiers found the training stimulating.

"This is the first time we began egressing simulated patients with the stretcher in the 15 foot deep pool, and it was really tough!" said Sgt. Dao Pongsavong.

During the training, four soldiers must stabilize the patient in the water, get the patient on the backboard without injuring the spine, strap the patient in, and then swim the patient out of the pool.

"The hardest part is climbing out of the pool and lifting that stretcher out of the water," stated Cadet Andrew Futcher. "Being a nurse or medic on land is one thing, but giving patient care when you're wet, tired, and treading water is something else," noted Lt. Col. George Luena as he sat on the side of the pool catching his breath.

"We have tried to make the training as interesting, tough, and realistic as possible. We've also utilized the skills of Navy instructors here at the facility, and have a Navy life guard on deck at all times," said Capt. Sharon Myers, training officer for the unit.

The training takes into account that during mobilizations and deployments units will be traveling overseas. In the event of an emergency, survival at sea is paramount. All soldiers learned how to make floatation devices out of their BDU's and how to use the various floatation devices found on aircraft, be it a Huey or a C-141.

"I never knew how to make a floatation device out of my uniform. This is really fun," commented 1st Lt. Rhonda Eisenzimmer.

The Combat Survival Water Swim consists of swimming 30 meters with BDUs, M16A2, and full LBE. Not only is there the stress of completing the various tasks, but the water becomes a big physical stressor that few soldiers initially took into account.

Lt. Col Steven Stinger demonstrates the Combat Survival Swim with LBE and weapon.

Surviving at sea

Lt. Col. Forest Follett, Chief of Professional Services at the 352D in Fresno teaches the classroom portion on survival at sea. "72 hours is what separates the survivors from the non-survivors at sea, and I think we have instilled the attitude to survive today."

Follett places his students in different scenarios at sea with limited resources at their disposal. "By the time my class is done, I want my students to think and know how to use what is available around them to survive."

Everyone involved in the training agreed that it was thorough. Using the Lemoore Navy Air Station Aviation Survival Training Facility is just another way soldiers in Fresno California are taking advantage of innovative training opportunities.

(Maj. Cenney is the 352nd Combat Support Hospital operations officer.)

Taking a 'dip' the hard way

By SPC Angelique Stephens

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Swimming 75 meters with an M16 rifle strapped to your back, in full BDU's including combat boots and LBE (Load Bearing Equipment) can't be easy and it's not supposed to be.

On July 30th the 431st Civil Affairs Battalion from Little Rock, Arkansas did things the 'hard' way when unit members took part in the swim evaluation test that all Cival Affairs and Pychological Operations Command units are required to perform as part of Special Operation Forces (SOF) training.

Soldiers were rated as non-swimmers—under 15 meters, weak swimmers—over 15 meters, swimmers—over 50 meters, and strong swimmers—over 75 meters with 50 meters being SOF qualification standard.

Maj. Darwin Concon was the Officer In Charge of the event and in charge of getting people in and out of the water. "Everybody needs to know about water safety," he said. "How not to panic when they find themselves in deep water with heavy equipment."

In case someone did panic, or just lose strength, safeties were provided on each side of the pool holding long poles out over the water to assist the swimmers.

Those who couldn't swim were taught by Maj. Francis Chancey, and learned how to use their uniform for floatation. Sgt. Judy Smith was a

See SWIM, page 34

(Above) Spec. Matthew Ferguson swam more than 50 meters with his gear to qualify as a strong swimmer. (Left) This soldier swims strongly despite the limitations of gear.

SWIM, from page 33

non-swimmer.

"I blew into my shirt while under water to make it float. And we threw our pants over our heads to catch air in them," she said. "Maj. Chancey also tried to teach me how to float, but I didn't learn."

Altogether about 30 people took the test with 12 being classified as strong swimmers and six as swimmers.

"People did well," Concon said. "There were a lot who were weak swimmers last year but tried again this year. That takes intestinal fortitude," he concluded.

Photo by Angelique Stephens

Maj. Francis Chancey (center) conducts floatation training.

Puerto Rico-based unit hones skills stripping vehicles for spare parts

FORT McCOY (Army Reserve Installation), Wisc.—Mechanics from the 264th Service Company (SC) out of Salinas, Puerto Rico spent their Annual Training stripping the vehicles for spare parts at Ft. McCoy, Wisc. The Puerto Rico-based reservists worked on skills that will help them with their unit and warfighting jobs during a four-week rotation supporting Operation Platinum Wrench (OPW) at the Installation Materiel Maintenance Activity (IMMA).

Approximately 105 reservists, members of the 264th SC, 65th Regional Support Command (RSC), spent two weeks last summer performing their annual training at the Reserve Installation.

Capt. James Groark, the 264th commander, said his unit came here because it is the only place in the U.S. Army Reserve Command that has a full-scale cannibalization point. A cannibalization point is similar to a civilian salvage yard, which stocks spare parts for future use.

"This is the only place we can train on our wartime mission and run a cannibalization point at full-scale, while working with direct support and general support maintenance companies," he said.

The 264th built shipping boxes or containers for shower and bath units, built shipping crates for the M915A4 glider kit project and built engine stands for engines for the

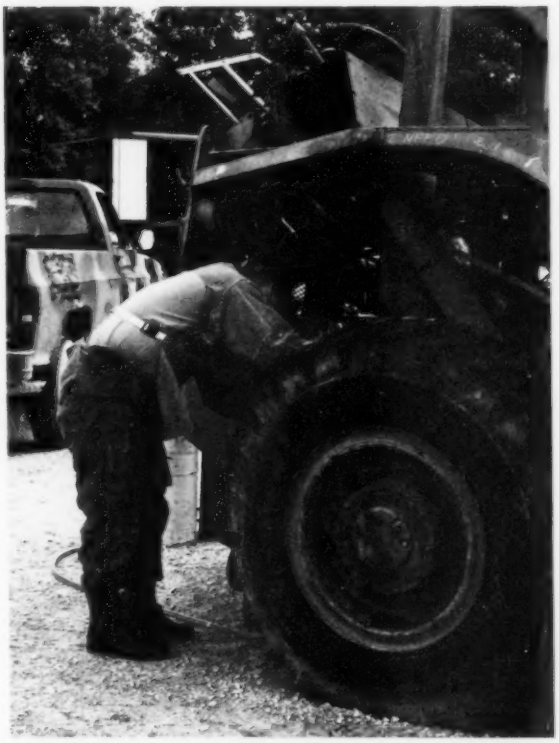


Photo by Rob Schuette

A soldier from the 264th Service Company of Salinas, Puerto Rico, removes bolts to remove a protective rollover cage from a 10,000 pound forklift as part of Operation Platinum Wrench at Fort McCoy, Wis.

glider kit. The glider kit material will be shipped to support OPW at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., and Fort Dix, N.J.

Spc. Juan Laboy, a storage and shipping technician, said members of the 264th met and trained with personnel from other units and worked with civilian personnel from the IMMA during their AT.

"We learn from the experiences of others," Laboy said. "We're having fun and getting some of the best training in our military career."

Mechanics from the 264th spent the AT stripping the vehicles for spare parts for the Direct Support and General Support maintenance companies.

Sgt. Christian Rivera, a 264th mechanic, said that the work gave him a chance to cross train into other areas. For example, he had to remove bolts before removing a protective rollover cage from a 10,000-pound forklift. The bolts are removed by melting them off with a welding tool.

"I haven't done a lot of this," Rivera said.

Ed Lukasek, IMMA Production and Control, said cannibalization points also serve other important needs. The parts inventoried may not exist anywhere else. Also, if the part is available new, it may come only as part of a whole set, not as an individual part.

"If we have the part in stock at the cannibalization point, we can send it to them for the shipping cost, which is usually much less than the cost of a new part," Lukasek said. "They save not only the cost of the new item, but they don't have to pay for parts they don't need."

Spc. Anarldo Vasquez, a mechanic, said the soldiers benefited by having an extended period of time to work on projects.

"We're able to do a lot of things here that we're not able to do at our home station. At home station, we often have only weekend training, which is not conducive to doing larger or longer projects."

The 264th is one of the few bilingual units in the Army Reserve. The ability to speak English and Spanish enhances the value of the soldiers and their contribution to the Army Reserve.

Golden Eagle 2000

Finance exercise 'pays off'

By Capt. Tracey Hodo

NEW ORLEANS, La.—It's amazing what soldiers can accomplish in a weekend drill. On a Friday last August 4 the 469th Finance Group (FG), commanded by Col. Maurenia Wade, deployed the entire unit from New Orleans, La., to Camp Blanding, Fla. to conduct their annual Finance Exercise "Golden Eagle".

The Golden Eagle (GE) exercise is the only Finance exercise where Reserve, National Guard and Active Duty Finance units get a chance to interact with one another and practice their real-world missions. It's an exercise geared toward providing units from across the country training on disbursing funds in a remote desert environment simulating real war conditions.

The exercise also serves as a finance train-up for operation Bright Star (a large scale joint training exercise which takes place in the northern desert region of Egypt as a joint/combined coalition, computer-aided command-post and field training exercise involving the United States, Egyptian, British, French, and other NATO military forces), and validates the multicomponent concept through RC, NG and AC training to fight as one team.

The 469th FG also deployed their Defense Finance Battlefield System to the training site which enabled the units to get hands-on familiarization on the system that accounts for monetary transactions, views pay records and pays vendor contracts in remote field locations. During the exercise, each unit was given a 4-hour block of instruction on how to setup the hardware and software needed to perform their finance mission.

Photos by Sgt. Lindsey King & Spec. Roy Bennett

(Left) Soldiers with the 469th Finance Group receive a 4:30 a.m. flight briefing prior to departure for Camp Blanding, Fla. Soldiers try to reassemble the Defense Finance Battlefield System.

Although the concept of the exercise was built around exercising Mobile Pay Teams, it gave the Reservists an opportunity to practice three of their METL tasks: Provide command and control over their subordinate units; Provide finance support in the area of operation; and Mobilize, deploy and redeploy.

Although this was a Disbursing exercise, the mobile pay teams had to utilize their land navigational skills to find the points. They were given a briefing, $50,000 in U.S. currency, $5,000 in foreign currency and handed missions to perform throughout the exercise. Each pay team was required to balance each day's business and clear with Finance prior to redeploying back to home station.

The 469th FG is a subordinate unit of the 377th Theatre Support Command (TSC), commanded by MG Michael Gaw in New Orleans. The unit is expected to be ready to deploy at a moments notice for any Finance mission.

From the Fort to the port, the 1179th DSB mak

By Bill Cook

FORT HAMILTON, NY—Maj. Edward Casazza claims he once heard a customer say, "Some units wonder what happened, some wonder how to make it happen, the 1179th makes it happen." Sgt. 1st Class Harvey Warshawsky nodded in agreement. Hype from a couple of Army Reservists?

"Absolutely not, the 1179th Deployment Support Brigade (DSB) knows its role very well," said customer Rita Johansen, unit movement coordinator for Fort Stewart, Ga., and nearby Wright and Hunter Army Airfields.

"They send us expert quality control deployment support teams to assist deploying warfighters turn confusion into properly labeled, documented, and packed containers, equipment, and vehicles," Johansen explained.

The 1179th, headquartered at Fort Hamilton, N.Y., recently dispatched a nine-member team to assist the nearly 2,000 Fort Stewart soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division get ready for their upcoming deployment to Bosnia as part of the next round of stabilization force rotations.

Many of that same 2,000-strong force had just returned from a grueling National Training Center rotation at Fort Polk, La. The 95-plus degree heat, humidity, and fatigue from that training had clearly taken a toll on the soldiers; they were understandably weary at the thought of again packing up all their equipment and vehicles so soon for an even lengthier endeavor.

Capt. John Lewis (left) and Staff Sgt. Cynthia Chevrestt double check the identification number on a vehicle to ensure it matches the inventory and other labels.

Approximately 400 containers and wheeled vehicles were packed and made ready for shipment by the Fort Stewart soldiers—a full plate for the 1179th's team to check—for proper packing, documentation, and measurement. On top of this was the relatively short suspense in which all the containers and equipment had to be at the Port of Savannah, Ga., where the Deployment Support Command's 841st Transportation Battalion from Charleston, S.C., was waiting to load the ship.

"Our mission is to help move units to the port safely and quickly with no frustrated cargo when they get there," said Casazza, one of the team's senior leaders.

'Frustrated' is the term used to describe cargo or equipment that cannot be loaded aboard ship because it has been found to be packed incorrectly, have conflicting or missing documentation, or have some other problem that must first be corrected.

"Even minor labeling errors and safety violations can cause containers and cargo to be frustrated for hours while explanations and time consuming corrections are made—we can help them ensure that does not happen," added Maj. John Spagnoli, another senior team member.

Spagnoli was quick to add that other units are now realizing what the Fort Stewart transportation office already knows—deployment support teams are critical in deployments. "A couple years ago, a battalion deployed without requesting deployment support team assistance," said Spagnoli. "They loaded up equipment and vehicles on slightly more than 200 rail cars that were bound for the port."

According to Spagnoli, his unit happened to be available to assist them when they were later loading up to return. "We managed to get that same equipment and cargo loaded on exactly 87 rail cars less than their original shipment," said Spagnoli. "Their commander was amazed at the savings and vowed never to leave home without us again."

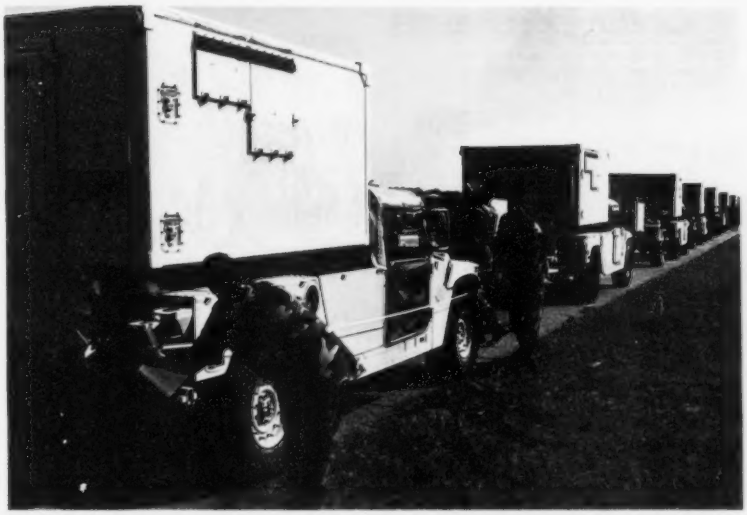
"That was not an isolated case. Another large deployment required three ships to carry all the cargo," Spagnoli said. "The staging area for the first shipload contained more than 800 pieces of equipment and containers that had first been checked by deployment support teams. At the port, there were only five pieces of cargo that had problems.

The third shipload, also assisted by a deployment support team had a similarly minuscule amount of frustrated cargo. The second shipload was another matter. Because a deployment support team had not been requested, 60 percent of that cargo was frustrated and the ship had to remain in port one additional day at tremendous cost to sort out all the issues," he explained.

This type of work—and tangible savings—is far from new for the 1179th. Sgt. 1st Class Tino Collura explained that his training goes all the way back to the REFORGERs (Return of Forces to Germany exercises) of the 1970s, and many other exercise as well.

"In the 1980s during Task Force Rushmore—part of the Fuertes Caminos nation building exercises in Panama—our five-member team received commendation medals for

...es it happen



(Left photo) Sgt. 1st Class Harvey Warshawsky (left) and Capt. Michael Philbin (center) cross check the equipment identification numbers with Capt. James Cox, the squadron movement officer for the 3-7 Cavalry, 3d Infantry Div., Fort Stewart, Ga. (Above) Staff Sgt. Cynthia Chevrestt (left) and Capt. John Lewis measure a vehicle in the convoy prior to its departure to the port of Savannah. A discrepancy could result in wasted space when loaded aboard the ship later.

saving $250,000 on the redeployment of the South Dakota National Guard," said Collura.

Efficient cargo transfer from the fort to the port with few if any frustrated containers or equipment does not come without hard work and sacrifice. Temperatures soared past 95 degrees under the Southern sky's unrelenting sun. The 1179th soldiers spent more than four sweltering days from sun up to sun down climbing on and over containers and vehicles located in shadeless motor pools. Not one of the deployment support team ended the day without being exhausted and soaked in sweat.

The concept of 'One team—One fight' was alive and well this day. Of the 140 vehicles, the team found 20 that had problems with documentation—20 that would have otherwise been frustrated at the port.

"They are an irreplaceable asset that is often taken for granted by other units who try to go it alone at their own peril," Johansen said. "They have saved us inestimable time and expense by all but eliminating delays at the port—in a rapid response contingency, there is absolutely no question their participation could be responsible for the success of the mission," she added.

Maj. Tim Whalen, the extremely busy 3rd Infantry Division Headquarters Division transportation officer in charge of the equipment move, was equally sure of the deployment support team's vital role in this current mission. "What's their value added? We simply could not do it without them," he said appreciatively.

(Mr. Cook is with the Deployment Support Command Public Affairs Office)

Hurricane-delayed projects help engineers

Spec. Jennifer S. Trautwein

A hurricane slowed the projects down, but it couldn't stop the Toledo, Ohio-based 983rd Engineer Battalion from completing the mission.

Between July 10 and Aug. 11 of last year, two rotations totaling more than 100 Reservists from the 983rd set up base camp in Stark County, Ohio, faced with two distinct construction projects: adding a retaining wall, two shelters and an additional parking tier to the parking lot at the Wilderness Center in Wilmot, and clearing a six-mile trail

See WILDERNESS, page 42

WILDERNESS, from page 41

in the Canal Fulton.

According to Wilderness Center Development Director Howard S. Rubin, Jr. this is the third year of construction projects on the 573-acre property, but the first year that the Army Reserve battalion has joined in. The 983rd was scheduled to begin construction operations on these sites last year but members were called away to Guatemala for hurricane disaster relief instead.

"Having the Reserve here was one of the key things to make this project come together," Rubin said. "They're doing a great job. They really care about what they're doing."

Rubin explained that the Wilderness Center bought the materials for the recreational trail, while the battalion provided the labor and equipment. Members of the battalion spent their two-week rotation bulldozing, clearing, flattening and widening the six-mile trail, which is owned by the Stark County Park District. When finished, the abandoned railroad line on the west side of the Tuscarawas River will be changed to a 20-foot-wide trail, able to accommodate walkers, runners, bicyclists and horseback riders.

"We're building something for them (the community)," said 1st Lt. Amy B. Herrick, OIC of the Canal Fulton project. "This is definitely a real-world mission; giving back to the community."

It's something the community seems to appreciate.

"A lot of people seem happy that we are doing this," said Spec. Mark Swanson, a heavy equipment operator with the 983rd. "They've stopped by, asked questions and said they are excited about this."

The 983rd gained from the experience too. "It's a great opportunity to actually get 'stick-time' on the equipment," said Pfc. Victor Ghallozi, a truck driver for the unit. "Drills are normally spent checking equipment, making sure it's operational and doing smaller projects."

A huge amount of work – but something the 983rd was happy to do. As Staff Sgt. Allen E. Fairchild, a carpentry/masonry supervisor for the 983rd said, "Anything to help our kids, our leaders and our future for tomorrow."

Technology key to Reserve training

Spec. Jalayna Herbert

MANNHEIM, Germany—Technology was the pacesetter as 7th Army Reserve Command units from four remote sites in Germany "logged on," training in an unclassified computer networked wartime rear area operations exercise. The event was held last fall in preparation for major upcoming V (U.S. Army) Corps exercises Victory Focus and Urgent Victory.

As the dedicated rear operations center for the Heidelberg, Germany based V Corps, Mannheim's 280th Rear Operations Center (ROC) and its sister units, Bamberg's 345th Wiesbaden's 317th, and Hanau's 309th Rear Area Operations Centers, participated in the highly innovative command post exercise that simulated actual contingency or wartime operations.

The outlying units logged on, compiled their rear area operational information, and then relayed it through the 7th ARCOM's Wide Area Network.

"Use of the network to communicate information that used to be relayed by hand, but is now relayed by electrons, helps this unit understand the role of networks in our unit communications architecture. That's valuable information to us," said Lt. Col. Alma J. Fernandez, Plans Officer, 280th ROC.

The terrain management database used in the exercise know as "MAPPY" is a one of a kind program. Maj. John Knowlton, 7th ARCOM, developed the program. Capt. Laura E. Sinnema, terrain management officer-in-charge for the exercise, described the MAPPY database as "technology that actually did what it said it would do – and that's no small feat."

The 280th's commander, Col. Phil Lopez, also commented on the value of the training. "This has been a great exercise. Our units have been able to train for our wartime mission from their home stations using the network, and our Active Component parent, V Corps, can see that we train to be on par with them; to be ready to go to war with them."

The Army Reserve units are among the 22 European-based units of the 7th ARCOM that are aligned with and provide direct support to U.S. Army Europe and its major subordinate commands.

256th-CSH personnel serve Army, community

Master Sgt. David E. Johnson

Soldiers of the 256th Combat Support Hospital (CSH) from Brooklyn, Ohio, got a chance to do a lot more than serve their country as citizen soldiers recently – they provided a much needed service to their community as well when they performed physical examinations for children in Canton, Ohio.

"When soldiers are allowed to do something as Army Reservists in the community, in uniform, it gives them the chance to show their pride," said Capt. Mary Burakowski, head nurse at the 256th. "Hands-on work with the community is what drives them. That's why they join the Reserve."

This is the second consecutive year the 256th assisted the Canton Community Clinic, a community-based free clinic for low-income people. Mary Cain, director of the clinic, sought the unit's assistance in an effort to get additional medical volunteers to give physicals to children from the area.

"The physicals are required so the kids can enter Headstart (a preschool program) and participate in sports," said Cain.

The first year Cain started the program at the clinic, 28 children received physicals. She said she knew that the need to service the community was much greater than her volunteer staff alone was capable of handling and that was when she came up with the idea of bringing in a MASH (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital) unit to help.

She enlisted the assistance of U.S. Rep. Ralph Regula from the 16th District, Bethlehem Township, who contacted the 256th and the rest is history.

The Army Reserve augments her volunteer staff with 40 medical personnel and the clinic can now perform more than 400 physicals in a single day. "Hundreds, literally hundreds of kids in the community can now participate in sports or join Headstart on time," said Cain. "Low-income families often cannot afford the required visit to the doctor for their kids."

"Thanks to the Army Reserve's presence here augmenting my volunteer staff," said Cain, "this annual event is a huge success for the community."

The success stems from 256th's personnel operating seven stations: medical exams, dental, audiology, height/weight/blood pressure, urinalysis, immunizations and blood draw.

"This is so much better than normal drills at the unit," said Sgt. Brian King, an X-ray technician who operated the hearing test station during the event. "I love getting out in the community like this, especially in uniform."

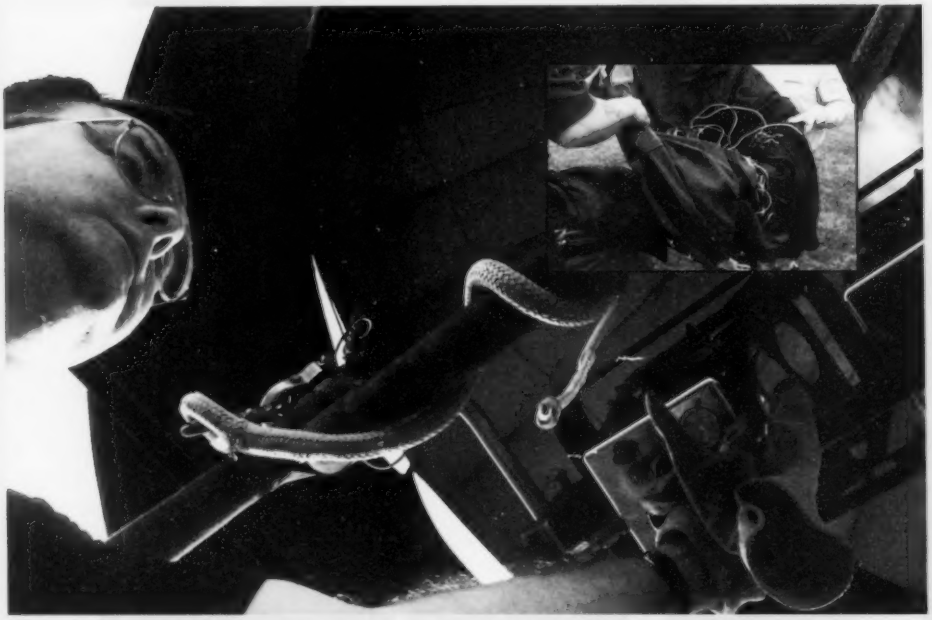
The children, preschoolers, 3-5 and youngsters, 6–9, who want to play sports, packed the Canton Urban League facility to get their physicals, many of them with questions for the soldiers. "One little boy asked me if I carried a gun," said Maj. Lauralee Wilson, a nurse practitioner.

The 256th personnel hope they can continue to assist the clinic in this annual community event. "A lot of good feelings are generated between the people in the community and the soldiers," said Burakowski. "Respect, achievement, individual pride are accomplished. Respect as soldiers is what we feel."

(Above) This young patient is not a happy camper as he submits to a physical exam given by Maj. Lauralee Wilson, a nurse practitioner. (Right) Maj. Doug Yoder, a surgeon, examines another youngster at the Canton, Ohio Community Clinic. (Below) Sgt. Brian King, an x-ray technician, administers a hearing test to a patient in Canton, Ohio.

Major has 'head in the clouds'

Spreads Army message in hot air balloon



Maj. Kevin Knapp ignites the burner to put heat into the balloon. Each burner puts out 15 million British thermal units. (Inset) He unpacks the balloon from its storage bag in preparation for inflation.

Story & photos by Pfc. Christopher Rowe

A confident voice calls out, "Keep weight on", as volunteers cling to a rugged wicker basket under an eighty-five foot mountain of hot air. With an enormous burst of flame, the basket pulls upward and the pilot says, "Weight off" as he floats into the sky.

The pilot is a soldier. His mission is to spread the Army message throughout the land.

Maj. Kevin Knapp, a human resource development officer with the 88th Regional Support Command, has been spreading the Army message in his hot air balloon for more than six years.

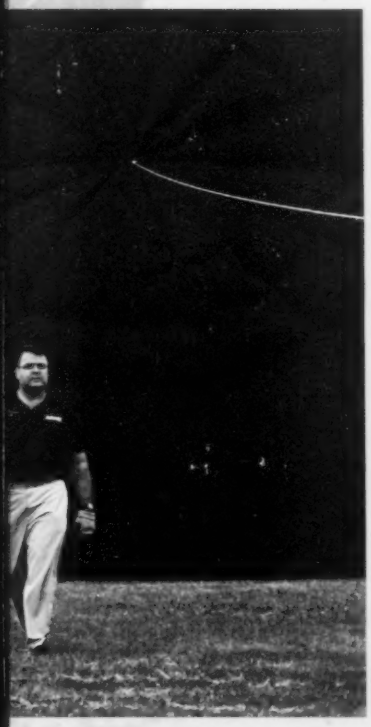
In 1989, after spending more than 14 years in Special Forces, Knapp moved to St. Louis as the Reserve Operation Officer for the St. Louis Recruiting Battalion. Knapp had been impressed by balloon rallies in the past, but thought it would be too difficult to start ballooning himself. A chance meeting with a balloon pilot would help Knapp overcome any difficulties that stood between him and the clouds.

"I was out running and met a balloon pilot, he said, 'Here hold this,' and I've been doing it ever since. I was used to action and adventure. Recruiting is intense in and of itself but it didn't have the action and adventure I was used to, so I got into ballooning," said Knapp.

Knapp uses his love of ballooning as a way to promote Army awareness. The black, 60-foot-wide balloon bears the word "ARMY" in enormous gold letters. The simple, yet impressive message can be seen for miles and touches civilians and service members alike.

"Service members get really excited. Especially in the central-northern Midwest where we don't have any active-duty Army bases. The Army Reserve, the Army National Guard, is the only Army

(Above) Maj. Kevin Knapp explains the inflation procedure to volunteers. (Right) He gives a tethered ride to some young volunteers as a reward for their assistance. (Bottom) Maj. Knapp inflates his hot air balloon just prior to the annual Arch Run in St. Louis, Mo.



that the public sees. When I come and show the Army black and gold, show the Army name, it brings that pride in service, gives them a little bit of different 'hooah' then they're used to," said Knapp.

Knapp promotes the Army with his own time, money and an extreme passion for ballooning. Over the last six years he has spent over 250 hours on the balloon (that's flight hours and doesn't include numerous hours of static displays and road trips to different locations), and is out of pocket over $150,000. The program has brought over $3.5 million of publicity to the Army through T.V., radio, newspapers and magazine articles. It is not an official Army program and the exposure gained by the Army costs the government nothing.

"The focus is getting the Army name out in the public. It's good to remind civilians that we are a viable option as a service of choice. It also reinforces those service members who made the decision to join the Army. Veterans who see the balloon come up and start talking about what it was like when they were in. The more that they're talking about their story, their family members listen, their neighbors listen, it comes back to getting the Army name out as the service of choice," said Knapp.

Knapp is a one-man show. Events range from Washington D.C. to California and 17 states in between. Sometimes driving 13 to 20 hours, he has no ground crew of his own and appreciates the volunteers from the community that help at many of the events. Knapp usually makes it to 15 to 20 events around the country annually, depending on costs and time constraints.

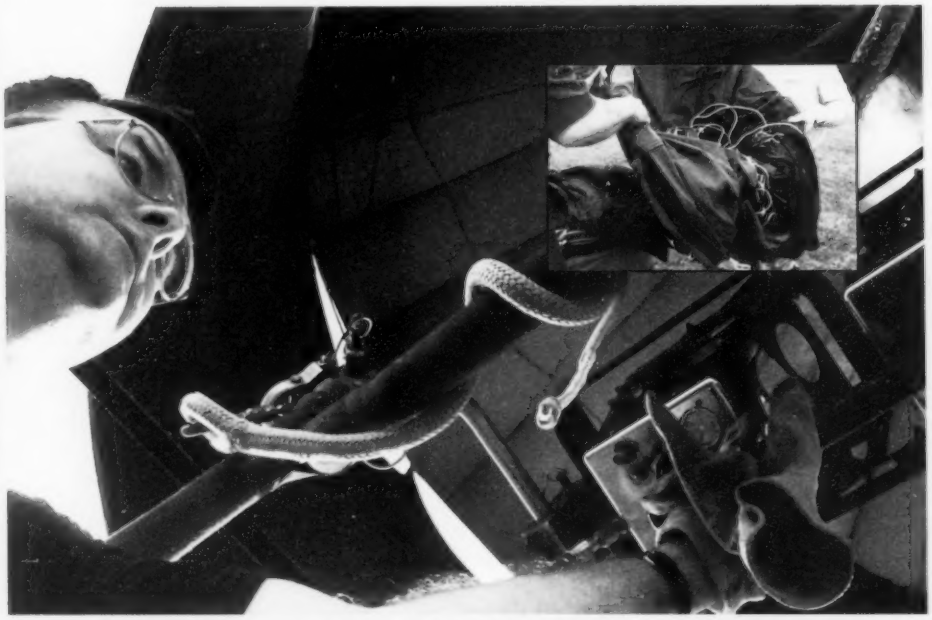
"A lot of soldiers ask me 'How can I become part of the Army balloon team?' and I'll grab them and I'll ask, 'What are you doing? Come here, hold this.' The same way I got involved in ballooning," said Knapp.

"Each one of us has a talent or something in our experience that we can use to share our Army story. I just happen to be a balloon pilot who has a balloon that says 'Army.' I share my story a little bit louder than most but the more people that we have sharing our stories, especially in the challenging recruiting environment that we have today, the more people will hear those stories and consider the Army their service of choice," said Knapp.

(Pfc. Rowe is with the 364th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Major has 'head in the clouds'

Spreads Army message in hot air balloon



Maj. Kevin Knapp ignites the burner to put heat into the balloon. Each burner puts out 15 million British thermal units. (Inset) He unpacks the balloon from its storage bag in preparation for inflation.

Story & photos by Pfc. Christopher Rowe

A confident voice calls out, "Keep weight on", as volunteers cling to a rugged wicker basket under an eighty-five foot mountain of hot air. With an enormous burst of flame, the basket pulls upward and the pilot says, "Weight off" as he floats into the sky.

The pilot is a soldier. His mission is to spread the Army message throughout the land.

Maj. Kevin Knapp, a human resource development officer with the 88th Regional Support Command, has been spreading the Army message in his hot air balloon for more than six years.

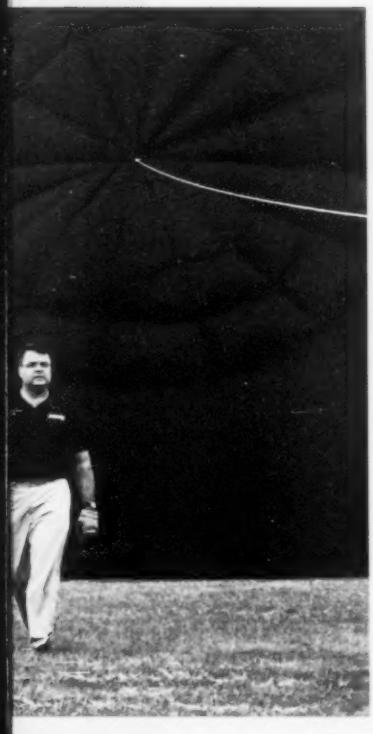
In 1989, after spending more than 14 years in Special Forces, Knapp moved to St. Louis as the Reserve Operation Officer for the St. Louis Recruiting Battalion. Knapp had been impressed by balloon rallies in the past, but thought it would be too difficult to start ballooning himself. A chance meeting with a balloon pilot would help Knapp overcome any difficulties that stood between him and the clouds.

"I was out running and met a balloon pilot, he said, 'Here hold this,' and I've been doing it ever since. I was used to action and adventure. Recruiting is intense in and of itself but it didn't have the action and adventure I was used to, so I got into ballooning," said Knapp.

Knapp uses his love of ballooning as a way to promote Army awareness. The black, 60-foot-wide balloon bears the word "ARMY" in enormous gold letters. The simple, yet impressive message can be seen for miles and touches civilians and service members alike.

"Service members get really excited. Especially in the central-northern Midwest where we don't have any active-duty Army bases. The Army Reserve, the Army National Guard, is the only Army

(Above) Maj. Kevin Knapp explains the inflation procedure to volunteers. (Right) He gives a tethered ride to some young volunteers as a reward for their assistance. (Bottom) Maj. Knapp inflates his hot air balloon just prior to the annual Arch Run in St. Louis, Mo.



that the public sees. When I come and show the Army black and gold, show the Army name, it brings that pride in service, gives them a little bit of different 'hooah' then they're used to," said Knapp.

Knapp promotes the Army with his own time, money and an extreme passion for ballooning. Over the last six years he has spent over 250 hours on the balloon (that's flight hours and doesn't include numerous hours of static displays and road trips to different locations), and is out of pocket over $150,000. The program has brought over $3.5 million of publicity to the Army through T.V., radio, newspapers and magazine articles. It is not an official Army program and the exposure gained by the Army costs the government nothing.

"The focus is getting the Army name out in the public. It's good to remind civilians that we are a viable option as a service of choice. It also reinforces those service members who made the decision to join the Army. Veterans who see the balloon come up and start talking about what it was like when they were in. The more that they're talking about their story, their family members listen, their neighbors listen, it comes back to getting the Army name out as the service of choice," said Knapp.

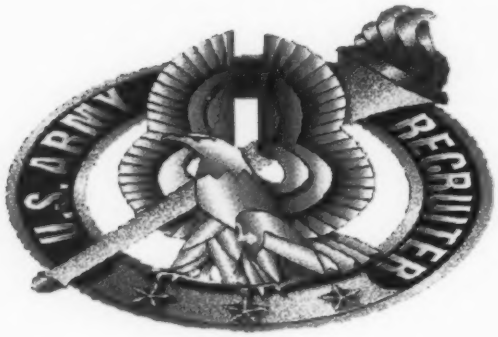
Knapp is a one-man show. Events range from Washington D.C. to California and 17 states in between. Sometimes driving 13 to 20 hours, he has no ground crew of his own and appreciates the volunteers from the community that help at many of the events. Knapp usually makes it to 15 to 20 events around the country annually, depending on costs and time constraints.

"A lot of soldiers ask me 'How can I become part of the Army balloon team?' and I'll grab them and I'll ask, 'What are you doing? Come here, hold this.' The same way I got involved in ballooning," said Knapp.

"Each one of us has a talent or something in our experience that we can use to share our Army story. I just happen to be a balloon pilot who has a balloon that says 'Army.' I share my story a little bit louder than most but the more people that we have sharing our stories, especially in the challenging recruiting environment that we have today, the more people will hear those stories and consider the Army their service of choice," said Knapp.

(Pfc. Rowe is with the 364th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Outstanding Army Reserve recruiters named



By Lt. Col. Randy Pullen

WASHINGTON—"I'm proud of every one of you wearing a Recruiting Badge."

That is how Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, Army Chief of Staff addressed the 46 outstanding recruiters gathered at the Pentagon February 27 for the Fiscal Year 2000 Chief of Staff of the Army Recruiter of Excellence Award Ceremony.

Established in 1984, the Recruiter of Excellence Award recognizes those recruiters who have achieved excellence in recruiting. The 46 recipients represent the top one-half of one percent of the Army's nearly 10,000 recruiters.

For the first time, this award recognized recruiters from all three components of the Army: the Active Army, the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard. Shinseki added Army National Guard recruiters after last year's ceremony.

Shinseki reminded everyone that he, too, was a recruiter — as is every other soldier in the Army.

"My name is Shinseki," he said, "and I'm a soldier. I'm also a recruiter. Everyone who serves in uniform is a recruiter."

Shinseki said that the Nation needs a strong Army and that recruiters are on the front line in obtaining the men and women that the Army must have. He acknowledged that they face great challenges in competing against a strong economy and they must do so, for the most part, on their own, away from Army installations and the usual support structure most soldiers take for granted.

Two years ago, both the Active Army and Army Reserve missed their recruiting goals by several thousand, Shinseki said. In a year's time, with a determined team effort, this situation was completely reversed.

"The Sergeant Major of the Army and I are very, very proud of you," Shinseki concluded. He then called Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley forward.

"You're doing an outstanding job," Tilley said.

Command Sergeant Major of the Army Reserve, Command Sgt. Maj. Alex Ray Lackey, made a special point to talk earlier in the day with all the recruiters, not just the Army Reserve recruiters.

Lackey thanked all of them for what they had done for the Army pointing out that he had a personal reason for his gratitude.

"When I became the CSM of the Army Reserve," Lackey said, "the Chief of the Army Reserve, General Plewes, put three of his five R's in my lane: readiness, recruiting and retention [Note: the other two R's are resources and relevance.]."

I know what you do and how hard the job is and your hard work is definitely appreciated, Lackey told them.

Lackey's boss, Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, had also acknowledged the teamwork that has turned around Army Reserve recruiting in a major address made to the Reserve Officers Association February 6.

"At the end of fiscal year 2000, the Army made its recruiting mission," Plewes said, "so did the Army Reserve, for the first time in ten years. Our partnership with the U.S. Army Recruiting Command continues today. We also made — no, we exceeded — mission in the first quarter of this fiscal year.

"It's not just recruiters who are doing well. We're retaining good, proven soldiers. U.S. Army Reserve Command also exceeded its first quarter retention mission."

Plewes said that the message is getting across, that the Army Reserve can and does recruit and retain the quality soldiers it must have.

All the honorees received special Chief of Staff of the Army certificates and coins, Sergeant Major of the Army coins and special commemorative coins from the Command Sergeant Major of the Army Reserve. The Army Reserve honorees also received Chief, Army Reserve, coins, presented on behalf of Plewes, by Maj. Gen. Paul Bergson, Military Deputy to the Deputy Under Secretary of the Army for International Affairs.

(Lt. Col. Pullen is with the Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve)

See Outstanding Soldiers

Page 47

Outstanding Soldiers

Army Reserve Recruiters

Staff Sgt. Richard Ekdahl, Chesapeake Recruiting Station, Chesapeake, Va.
Staff Sgt. Iress Dean, Georgia Avenue Recruiting Station, Silver Springs, Md.
Sgt. 1st Class Carmelo Parrilla, Puerto Rico Recruiting Station, Rio Piedras, P.R.
Sgt. 1st Class Dale Blubaugh, Bloomington Recruiting Station, Bloomington, Ind.
Sgt. Gerald Kimbley, Willowbrook Court Recruiting Station, Houston, Texas
Staff Sgt. Albert Abadam, Agana Guam Recruiting Station, Agana, Guam

Sgt. First Class Michael O'Brien of Texas was chosen as the U.S. Army Reserve recruiter of the year.

Army Reserve Guidance Counselors

Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Cole, Albany Military Entrance Processing Station, Albany, N.Y.
Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Miller, Jackson MEPS, Jackson, Miss.
Sgt. 1st Class Jack Waddington, Columbus MEPS, Gahanna, Ohio
Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Hegarty, Des Moines MEPS, West Des Moines, Iowa
Master Sgt. Frank Howell, San Jose MEPS, Mountain View, Calif.

Army Reserve Army Medical Department Recruiter

Capt. Lora Darnell, Oklahoma City Health Care Recruiting Team, Del City, Okla.

Chaplain Recruiter

Chaplain (Maj.) Steve Langehough, 3rd Recruiting Brigade, Fort Knox, Ky.

(SMART) Program Award — Army Reserve Honoree

Spec. Brett Newman, 489th Engineer Battalion, Little Rock, Ark.

(The Sergeant Major of the Army Recruiting Team — SMART — program was established in 1997.The award recognizes soldiers in a non-recruiting status who provide the highest number of referrals and enlistments from those referrals to local recruiters.)

An Army of One

Serving country leads to fame for combat medic

By Maj. Mark Zimmer

In September of 1999, when Army Reserve Recruiter Sgt. Audra Hicks contracted her first soldier, little did she know the impact that her new recruit would have on the Army and the Army Reserve. Sgt. Hicks was absolutely thrilled signing up Carlos Perez as a Combat Medic for the 6252d United States Army Hospital, Ventura, CA. Perez would be memorable not only as her first recruit but as the featured Army Reservist in a new "An Army of One" TV spot and a website "What would you Do?" series.

The commercial's director, Andrew Douglas (left) explains to Spec. Carlos Perez (center) the next action sequence.

Stepping stone

"There are many things that I've done while serving in the Army that have made me feel special."
Spec. Carlos Perez

Spec. Carlos Perez said, "the main reasons I joined the Army was, having a new challenge in life, a stepping stone in helping me obtain a Master's degree in Physical Therapy and, what my father instilled in me, a need to seek the training, discipline and respect he acquired as a soldier."

Carlos grew up in Los Angeles the oldest of six children. His late father, a first generation Mexican American, was drafted in 1967 and served as a helicopter gunman in Vietnam.

Perez, 25, has had many challenges in his short Army Reserve career to include the tragedy of losing his parents 3 years ago. He now helps provide support and guidance to his younger siblings. "There are many things that I've done while serving in the Army that have made me feel special. My graduating from both Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training are moments my parents would have been proud of." Carlos said.

Being close to home and family are important in the Hispanic community that Perez grew up in and one of main reasons he chose to serve in the Army Reserve. His training as a Combat Medic provided him with the experience to land a civilian job as an Emergency Medical Technician with Grabor Ambulance Service in downtown LA.

"I got out of my school in Fort Sam Houston and was immediately able to qualify for my current job," Perez said. "We do a lot of patient transport, on call ambulance service and the same type of basic life support I learned at AIT."

He is particularly proud of the duties he performs at the 6252d. "I know how stop any type of bleeding, cover a wound or provide a soldier with an IV. I am capable of saving a life if given the opportunity."

Recognized soldier

Earthquake, the first Army Reserve TV commercial under the new campaign, turned the 25 year old into one of the most recognizable soldiers in the United States. It appears on both English and Spanish language TV stations targeted at 17-24 year olds.

"I didn't know what to expect during the shoot…I met a lot of great people, had to wear makeup and was little nervous in front of the camera," he admitted.

The 30-second TV spot is a realistic U.S. Army disaster relief dramatization that takes place in a Latin American country. It confronts the Combat Medic with the question "What would you do?" after a native boy begs him to enter a shaky building to help his stricken family after an earthquake.

"I just joined the Army Reserve and I get to experience a commercial shoot. It was long hours but a lot of fun and there were always a lot of people to help you get it right."

The only thing he said he didn't like was the production crew spraying water in his face all the

time to give the look of being part of a harried, disaster relief scenario.

Family pride

"When I told my family I was going to be in TV commercial they didn't believe me. Then they saw me on TV and they were very proud."

His family was also impressed with seeing him on the goarmy.com website where the question "What Would You Do?" is answered.

So how does he handle his new fame, "A lot of people just come up to me and ask if me if I'm the guy in the commercial. Sometimes the nurses (at work) give me a hard time."

He says he's only seen the English version once, but because many of his friends watch Spanish language TV, they have seen the Hispanic version several times. "They're both the same commercial so I really don't have a preference of which one I like better," Perez explained.

A closeup of Perez is filmed and audio track is laid for later editing.

So is this the beginning of an acting career for the Los Angeles native? "If I had an opportunity I'd like to do another commercial" he said modestly.

The Army Reserve has kept Perez busy with appearances before military and civilian groups and his continuing presence on the web site. He was present representing the Army Reserve on stage with the Secretary of the Army and the Vice Chief of Staff at the official launch of the "Army of One" campaign.

"I came back from Washington D.C. and showed my recruiter my medals and certificates. She was both amazed and very happy with what happened to me since I joined the Reserve."

(Maj. Zimmer is with the Public Affairs, Liaison Directorate, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve)

Reservist leaps into TRANSCOM transition

By John Randt

These days, everywhere Brig. Gen. Carlos "Butch" Pair goes – his cell phone goes with him.

It was only five months ago when Pair did not even own a cell phone. Then, on June 19, Pair walked into the headquarters of the U.S. Transportation Command and became the organization's first chief of staff.

It was quite a leap for the Sylacauga, Ala., resident, who had been serving in the part-time Army Reserve position as Deputy Commanding General for Mobilization at the Military Traffic Management Command, in Washington, D.C.

"Until this job," said Pair, "I never fully understood the breadth and scope of the Defense Transportation System."

On arrival, Pair said a "fire hose" of information came his way from countless briefings. Now, Pair is on the scheduling end of briefings – not the recipient.

"I'm connected," said Pair. "Today, the Chief of Staff's Office touches everything flowing into and out of the Command Suite."

In such a responsible job, Pair said the job calls for continuous attention. "There was no test," said Pair. "This was a job to execute and to succeed in. I am in a contribution mode – that translates to what ever the job calls for."

Photo by John Randt

Brig. Gen. Carlos "Butch" Pair, Chief of Staff, U.S. Transportation Command.

Those challenges came quickly. After a short orientation, Pair found himself representing the Commander-in-

See TRANSCOM, page 63

Pursuing Olympic dream

Reservist gets shot at steeplechase team

Story and photos by Pfc. Jennie Parsons

As a kid, did you ever have a crazy dream that you would go to the Olympics to compete in the sport you loved? Did you dream you'd start sprinting at the sound of the gun, hear the crowd cheering and chanting your name as you you sprint across the finish line way ahead of the other runners? And did you dream of being declared the Olympic champion?

For Sandu D. Rebenciuc, an Army Reservist and Olympic trials steeplechase runner, his dreams of having a shot at the Olympic team came true.

"Just to have been there in the Olympic trials is an achievement to me," he said, "making the Olympic team would have been a bonus."

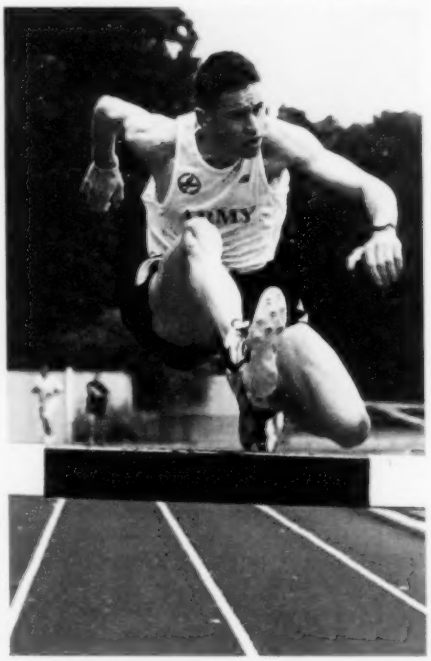
This 31-year-old, five-foot 10-inch, 140-pound, Springfield, Mass. resident has been running for 20 years, and trained for the Olympic trials for 10 months.

Rebenciuc raced against 37 other Steeplechase runners July 17, in Sacramento, Ca. He went further than any other Reservist in the event.

"There were three heats, and my heat was a really tough heat," he said. "There was a previous Olympic team runner, an NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) champion, and two guys who had already been to the Olympic trials. I came in right behind them, fifth in my heat. I had an 8:35:02 time, which placed me 15th with all three heats. But they only take 14 runners to the finals."

Before the Olympic trials, Rebenciuc ranked 17th in the nation with an 8:42:00 two-mile Steeplechase run. The Steeplechase event is a two-mile run around a track, which includes four hurdles and a water obstacle. The water obstacle is a hurdle with a ditch full of water directly following it.

"I was very nervous before the race," he said. "I probably couldn't even have told you my name. I just kept thinking, 'Let's get going!'



Spc. Sandu D. Rebenciuc, an Army Reservist and Olympic trials Steeplechase runner leaps over a single hurdle during one of his practices, which helped him prepare for the Olympic trials.

"My biggest problem was the track," he said. "It was a Mondo surface, which is used for sprinters. It's thin and hard and took a lot of my bounce away. It felt like I was running on the road."

Qualifying

The Olympic trial track and field qualification is one of the most competitive competitions in the world- even more so than the Olympics.

"I qualified for the Olympic trials through the Army Reserve," he said. "My recruiter was great and hooked me up with the World Class Athlete program, which pays full time.

"My dog, Tison, also really helped me out," said Rebenciuc. "He's my training partner. He's always beside me on those long runs and helps keep my mind off the run. Running is such a mental thing.

"I joined the Army Reserve about two years ago," he said. "I just showed up last year in this program right out of Basic Training and wanted to try Steeplechase. It was instant success, and I've run only six races since then. My coach was shocked."

"I am very proud to wear the ARMY logo across my chest," Rebenciuc said. "It's different than having NIKE or ADIDAS written on your chest. I am originally from Romania, but have always believed this is the greatest country in the world. I became a citizen only two years ago, but being in the Army Reserve of the best country in the world is an honor to me.

"The Army Reserve can really help you achieve your dreams," he said. "They give me a sense of belonging."

Unit support

Rebenciuc's Reserve unit, 2nd Battalion, 417th Drill Sergeant Instructor unit out of Waterbury, Conn., is very supportive of his running. "They could have said 'No, we need you here in the office' but they saw that this was a chance of me accomplishing my dream," he said. "Without

OLYMPIC, from page 50

Rebenciuc, warms up with his training partner, Tison, before practicing the more strenuous obstacles.

them, I wouldn't be here and I wouldn't have had this chance to go to the Olympic trials.

"Basic training really helped my running out too," he said. "I learned simple things like how staying hydrated helps out my run so much and how to be a leader. It also made me realize I'm a strong person."

"When he got out of basic training, I could see a big difference in his personality," said his wife Mari Jane Rebenciuc. "He was more self-assured and more outgoing."

Even though Rebenciuc didn't make the Olympic team, he still accomplished a lot more than the average American. He placed 15th in the nation, and made his best time ever of 8:35:02, which was his personal goal.

"It was a great experience," he said. "It was an honor to run for my country, an honor to be given that chance, and an honor just to be there."

(Pfc. Parsons is with the 319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Veteran Reservist maintains global view

By Martin Weteling

Lt. Col. Edmund Capas has no problem maintaining a global perspective.

The veteran Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) officer with the 598th Transportation Group is his own recruiting poster image of the U.S. Army deployed overseas.

Capas, who completed his sixth tour with the group Dec. 13, has seen more of the Army's global missions than most soldiers.

Consider this -- after four years in the Army, Capas has now had 35 tours of duty since 1981 – including four Presidential Reserve Call-ups. Those call-ups include Bayonne, N.J., in 1990 to support Operation Desert Storm and the Pentagon in 1995 to support Haiti humanitarian assistance.

Later call-ups to the 598th were to support operations for Bosnia in 1999 and for Kosovo in 2000.

Capas has been the Senior Reserve Affairs Advisor for the command. In this position he manages the group's 400 Reservists. During a time of crisis, the Reservists would assist in special operations where needed.

"To get these Reserve individuals and units prepared is an intensive task," said Capas. "The main part of it is to make sure there is constant communication between them and the 598th Transportation Group. This is important because of the constant changes in personnel."

Constant preparation and organization are required, said Capas, to ensure success with any mission that is ordered.

In his last three successive tours of duty at the command, Capas has managed approximately 55 individual Reservists, mostly IMAs. He was also responsible for overseas training for two of the command's aligned Reserve units.

"The IMA program is by far the best program that the U.S. Army Reserves has to offer for dedicated Reserve soldiers who need maximum flexibility in balancing their civilian and military careers," said Capas.

As Capas returns to civilian duty, he will retain his global perspective.

He has a multi-dimensional life. He teaches English at the University of Siauliai in Lithuania and maintains a home in Cleveland, Ohio.

Of Lithuanian heritage, Capas will go back to writing articles and philosophical commentaries about the centuries old culture and post Soviet lifestyle of present-day Lithuania. The articles will appear in several newspapers, both in Lithuania and the United States.

But, most importantly, after six months of duty with the 598th Transportation Group, Capas is mostly looking forward to seeing his wife and two daughters.

(Mr. Weteling is the Assistant Command Affairs Officer for the 598th Transportation Group)

Army Reserve family battles acute illness

Story and photo by Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Webster's Dictionary defines courage as the quality of being brave, but once one gets to know Evens McVay, they might describe courage as a four-foot, 56-pound, blond-haired, blue-eyed, little boy who is winning a battle against a life-threatening disease unknown to many people.

Evens, 6-year-old son of Sgt. 1st Class Kathy Hardy, Headquarters, 81st Regional Support Command (RSC), Birmingham, Ala., and stepson of Sgt. 1st Class Joey Hardy, 87th Training Support Division (TSD), Birmingham, Ala., was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL) in March of 1998. Kathy said although it has been hard and Evens still has a chemotherapy protocol of two and a half years, he is well on his way to a full recovery.

She added that throughout Evens' battle with leukemia he has always been a constant inspiration to them and other children.

"You would think it would be the opposite, but most of the time it was Evens who kept us going through the rough days," Kathy said as her eyes began to swell with tears. "There is so much we have to do. You have to be mother, father, doctor, husband and wife, and Army soldier. You have to be strong for everything, and one day you come to a breaking point where you say, 'Oh my God, my child has cancer,' and you can't see how this could have happened."

From left to right: Sgt. 1st Class Joey Hardy, Lesley McVay, Evens McVay, and Sgt. 1st Class Kathy Hardy pose for a family portrait.

Positive attitude

She said throughout his illness, Evens has always had a happy, wonderful, positive attitude and no matter how sick he got, nothing ever kept him down.

"At first I didn't understand what was wrong with me," Evens said. "I kind of understood what leukemia was about a month after my mom and stepdad told me what I had. You know, some people die right when they get it, so I'm happy I'm still living. I think other kids with it who are still living should be happy too."

Evens said he was happy that the National Childhood Cancer Foundation (NCCF) recently recognized his family as the Military Family of the Year.

Meredith Brucker, Director of Public Affairs for NCCF, said Evens and his family are exemplary proof of what Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) contributions can do in the support of raising funds to aid research into new cures for children with cancer.

Evens added that something else that makes him happy is going to Camp Smile-A-Mile with his sister, Lesley McVay, to see his friends and to fish, because he enjoys fishing and it makes him "smile."

Camp Smile-A-Mile is a local non-profit organization for children living in Alabama between the ages of four and 18 who have or have had cancer. They provide year-round programs for them, such as overnight camps, at no cost to their families. Camp Smile-A-Mile recently honored Evens by placing his picture on the cover of their magazine.

True courage

Lynn Thompson, Executive Director of Camp Smile-A-Mile, said they chose his picture because Evens represents true "courage." "He is such a great kid and he is always smiling," Thompson said. "You couldn't ask for a better picture for Camp 'Smile'-A-Mile's magazine cover."

Evens may still be smiling and doing well, but the disease he has is nothing to smile about. The NCCF reported that the incidence of childhood cancer is increasing. Cancer continues to kill more children than any other disease, but with new research the survival rate for children with leukemia is over 75 percent and rising. Evens is a true example of this.

Kathy and Joey said there were many rough roads along the way, but the support they received from the Army Reserve and their friends played a major part in helping them and Evens cope with this illness.

The Hardys said there are a variety of avenues families dealing with childhood cancer can take to get help and support.

"Families should seek out different programs in the area to get involved with," Joey said. "Military and civilian family support groups are great places to start. Finding programs that have families going through the same situation as your family can also be a big help. There are also a number of organizations that can assist families in other ways,

See EVENS, page 63

90th RSG supports community

Reservists volunteer for annual Wheelchair Games

By Chief Warrant Officer Michael Struski

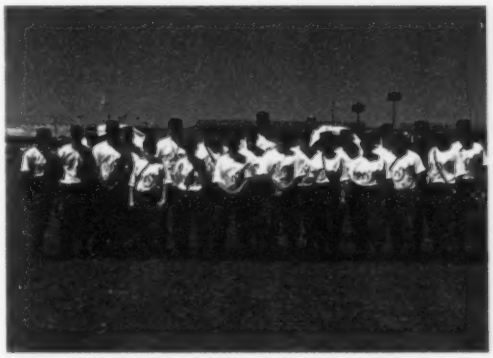
SAN ANTONIO, Texas—Unit members from the 90th Regional Support Group were among thousands of volunteers who where on hand to support the 20th National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) in San Antonio, Texas for one week in July.

The Wheelchair Games is a multi-event sports and rehabilitation program for military service veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition due to spinal cord injuries, amputations or certain neurological problems. The first National Veterans Wheelchair Games was held in 1981, the international year of the disabled, at the VA Hospital in Richmond, Va. Because of the Games' success competition continued and the number of competitors increased.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). With financial assistance from numerous corporate, civic and veterans service organizations, the Games are held annually in different cities and is the largest wheelchair sporting event in the United States. An average of more than 500 competitors have participated since 1990 in events such as swimming, table tennis, weightlifting, track and field, archery, quad-rugby, air guns, basketball, softball, bowling, wheelchair slalom, a wheelchair rally and 5-kilometer road race. Track events include 100-, 200-, 400-, 800-, 1500- and 5000- meter races. Field events include the club throw, shot put, discus and javelin. Athletes compete in all events against others with similar athletic ability, competitive experience or age and gender.

The games focus on improving the quality of life for veterans with disabilities and fostering better health through sports competition. While past Games have produced a number of national and world-class champions, the Games also provide opportunities for newly disabled veterans to gain sports skills and be exposed to other wheelchair athletes and competitors. Last summer's games had nearly 150 out of 570 veterans from the U.S. and Great Britain were novice competitors who have never before participated in any type of organized wheelchair sports competition.

Hosted this year by the VA Heart of Texas Health Care Network additional volunteers were needed to support select events. The soldiers of the Army Reserve's 363rd Quartermaster Battalion from San Marcos, Texas and one of its subordinate units, the 217th Transportation Company, also from San Antonio, Texas answered the call. When approached for assistance the new commander of the 363rd, Maj. (P) Jaye Wells felt it would be an ideal training experience for some of the truck drivers at the Transportation Company. In addition, it provided an opportunity to promote the U. S. Army Reserve for recruitment purposes as well as provide support to those who honorably served their country.



(Photo courtesy Guadalupe Hernandez, South Texas Veterans Health Care System)

Reservists assigned to the 90th Regional Support Group lend time and talents in support of the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

1st Lt. Carlos Esparra, Commander of the 217th, tasked Truckmaster Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Rodriguez with assuring the bleachers were transported in a safe and timely manner. This was accomplished using a number of five- ton trucks and drivers. A number of 217th soldiers and their families volunteered their time throughout the week, assisting with the sporting events.

Members of the 363rd provided support for the archery event and breakdown of tents at the end of the games. Soldiers and family members of the 363rd also donated their time throughout the week. The Battation's senior enlisted man, Command Sgt. Maj. Lester Cranek, and his entire family pitched in to help with site set-up, air gun, weightlifting, road racing, the 5K hand-cycling events and other details throughout the Games.

The participating Reservists were overwhelmed by the incredible sense of accomplishment on the part of the competitors. It gave them a sense of great pride to give something back to their comrades-in-arms.

Tom Brown, national director of the Games, summed up the week's activities by saying, "The Games are more than an athletic experience, they are a life experience. They form a platform whereby a military veteran can jump into world of change and adventure and be a part of it."

Kudos

Modern day hero

Reservist risks own life to save

Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Geddes

Master Sgt. Ernest "Corky" Albiero, 376th Finance Battalion, shakes hand with Congressman Dennis Hastert after being presented with a Soldier's Medal.

By Staff Sgt. Bill Geddes

The medal was long overdue – Master Sgt. Ernest "Corky" Albiero performed the actions that earned him the Soldier's Medal four years earlier – but that was alright with Albiero. He wasn't looking for recognition when he risked his life to save another – in fact he tries to avoid it.

Albiero was heading back to Fort Hood, Texas, from Brownsville, Texas, June 23, 1996, returning from a pass during his two-week annual training, when a welding truck passed him. Seconds later, Albiero came upon the truck, smashed into the back of a tanker truck, and on fire.

Another motorist had already stopped near the median, and yelled to Albiero that the welding truck driver was pinned inside. White smoke was already billowing from the truck. Albiero leapt into action, grabbing a fire extinguisher from his truck and rushed to assist. The driver was pinned inside, both doors were jammed shut, and the windshield was blown out.

"I ran up to the cab and flames were coming up over the guys head," Albiero said. "I literally put the fire extinguisher on the guy's face and put him out. But the fire kept coming up and coming up and coming up. So I kept putting it out and putting it out and putting it out."

It wasn't long before Albiero's extinguisher gave out, and he started looking for another one in the welding truck. "It was one of those trucks with the little doors on the side. I opened one of them up and saw all these acetylene tanks," Albiero said. "So I ripped them out of there and threw them onto the median. I opened another door and here's 8 or 9 cases of starting fluid, you know, ether. That (stuff) will blow up, so I threw it out too. People came up and saw me throwing it out like I was a madman or something. I was throwing that stuff all over the highway."

By this time a crowd had gathered, a crowd Albiero estimates to be around 200 strong. "I just kept yelling at them, 'Bring me more stuff,'" Albiero said. "They would run up and get about 20 feet from the truck and throw these bottles of lemonade or milk at me, like gallon bottles. I'd take that and splash him with it. Something was on the floorboards that kept reigniting."

The floorboards weren't the only part of the truck on fire. Flames were also coming up from the hood – the place Albiero was climbing to splash the driver with whatever fluid was thrown to him – and while he didn't realize it at the time, Albiero was getting burned too. Albiero was more concerned about the driver. "He looked like he was having a problem," Albiero said. There was that plastic smoke coming up – you know, thick black – that stuff you can't breathe. He was moaning at me, reaching out to me. I told him, 'Don't die, I'm going to stay with you until we get you out. I'm going to get you out of this truck, you just hang tough kid.' He did, he hung on."

Most of the crowd of 200 spectators was, understandably, leery about coming forward. They had, after all, just seen Albiero throwing acetylene tanks and bottles of ether out of the welding truck. And no one knew what was in the tanker truck. Fortunately, one other person did step forward.

"If I ever see that Mexican guy again, I'm going to give him a sloppy kiss," Albiero said. "He saved my life." Albiero never knew the man's name, but thanks to his stepping forward and putting out the fire under the hood

another, earns Soldier's Medal

while Albiero put out the fire in the cab, he'll never forget him.

Finally, 20 minutes after the accident, the paramedics got there. A paramedic ran up with the 'Jaws of Life,' a device used to free people trapped in vehicles, but she was too slight to get the job done. "You have to have enough (weight) to punch it into the door," said Albiero, who used to work as a paramedic. Albiero punched it in and went to work.

"When I opened the Jaws of Life and I pulled the door off, I had bent down the top of the door. I tried to rip it down with my hands. I'm a big dude you know, so I could push it. When I got the door open, he was pinned in about 6-8 inches of space. I saw the fire extinguisher behind the seat."

The paramedics got the driver out of the cab and went to work on saving his life. Albiero, exhausted after the 15 – 20 minute experience, and not yet aware of his burns, asked a police officer if he could leave. The officer told him to pull his car around; he'd let him through. "You don't look too good either," the officer said.

As he continued his drive back to Fort Hood, Albiero realized he was burned, and called his wife for advice. She told him to stop in at Wal-Mart and pick up some Neosporin. Albiero finally arrived at Fort Hood, a little bit late. "(My colonel) thought I'd gotten into a bar fight or something," said Albiero. "I had bandages hanging all over me."

Once he'd gotten back, Albiero grew curious as to what had become of the driver. He found out that the driver, Charlie Wasserman, had been taken to Brooks Medical Center at Fort Hood. Unable to find out any information on his own, Albiero contacted the chaplain for assistance. The chaplain, while investigating the situation, talked to Wasserman's partner, who had been trailing Wasserman and was one of the 200 in the crowd. Knowing what was in the truck, he had been unwilling to come forward, but told the chaplain about some Army guy (Albiero was wearing his PT uniform at the time) who had put the fire out.

The next morning the chaplain came to where Albiero's unit was training, told his commanding officer what he had done, and put Albiero in contact with Wasserman's family.

From that point on, Albiero received updates from the family, and Wasserman was still alive when Albiero left Fort Hood. Unfortunately, Wasserman ended up dying eight days later. But, as Mary F. Wasserman, Charles mother, wrote in a letter to Albiero, "If (Albiero) had not been there, we would not have had those last few days with our son. This too was God's plan, because our entire family has become closer as a result of the tragedy."

Albiero was put in for a Soldier's Medal, but the paperwork was lost. Because two years had passed, the medal could only be awarded if a congressional member reopened the case. Lt. Col. Jeffery S. Wierichs, wanting his soldier to receive appropriate recognition, wouldn't let the award die, and contacted Albiero's congressman, Rep. Dennis Hastert (Ill.). Hastert submitted the award, but the Army lost the paperwork again. Wierich continued to follow up, and Hastert again submitted the award.

Hastert presented the award to Albiero on May 30. "I haven't presented an award like this before," said Hastert. "It was really an extraordinary thing. I believe the Reservists are the core of the community. They do a great job, not only while on duty, but within their community as well."

Photo by Sgt. Noreen Feeney

Master Sgt. Ernest "Corky" Albiero, 376th Finance Battalion, throws the opening pitch at a Chicago Cubs baseball game.

Those words definitely apply to Albiero. "Corky's an old school soldier," said Wierich. "He doesn't look for reasons not to do things, he looks for solutions, for how to get things done."

Albiero also got recognition within the community. On July 4, Albiero was one of three people who threw out an opening pitch at the Chicago Cubs game. "The first two people to throw out a pitch were your typical celebrities — the type who normally throw out the pitch — and the crowd booed," said Albiero. "I got up there in uniform, and the announcer read why I was being honored, and the whole stadium stood up and cheered."

They probably recognized Albiero's attitude. "You don't let another human being go to hell in a handbasket," said Albiero. "You don't sit back and watch, you help. That's what soldiers do, soldiers do that stuff. I was probably the only soldier there. It's an attitude. Army people have an attitude."

(Staff Sgt. Geddes is with the 364th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Change allows more reservists to earn Soldier's Medal

By Gary Sheftick and Wayne Hall

WASHINGTON—More reservists and guardsmen are earning the Soldier's Medal since a new policy went into effect allowing them to receive the award for actions performed off duty, according to ArmyLINK News.

The 1998 Defense Authorization Act amended Title 10 of the U.S. Code to authorize award of the Army's highest peacetime medal "to a member of the Ready Reserve who was not in a duty status ... when the member distinguished himself by heroism." Prior to last year's legislation, soldiers of the Army Reserve and National Guard could only receive the Soldier's Medal for heroic acts while on active duty, at annual training or attending an active-duty school.

The Soldier's Medal, established July 2, 1926, is awarded to recognize any individual of the U.S. Armed Forces who, while serving in any capacity with the Army, distinguishes himself by acts of heroism and meritorious service not involving actual conflict with an enemy, officials said.

Two Army Reserve non-commissioned officers – Sgt. 1st Class Denny Skiles and Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Schmanski – received the Soldier's Medal last fall for saving lives. A Soldier's Medal was recently awarded by the Chief of the Army Reserve, Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, to an Active Guard Reserve officer who left AR-PERSCOM for Los Angeles and the 311th Support Command (Corps) in summer 1998. Lt. Col. Roger Furnival is the special projects officer under 311th COSCOM Operations, or G-3. Furnival came to the aid of a woman who was being carjacked at 2:30 p.m. on a Saturday in January 1999.

Sgt. 1st Class Denny Skiles receives the Soldiers Medal from Maj. Gen. Thomas Plewes, Chief, Army Reserve.

The Los Angeles district attorney described Furnival's heroism at a city luncheon honoring Furnival and several others:

Furnival and his two sons were just getting back into their car when he heard what he describes as a "gut-wrenching, something really bad" kind of a scream from nearby in the parking lot. He told his elder son to call 911 and approached a woman being attacked by two carjackers. One of the men ran; the other turned to face him. The two men fought — Furnival trying to hold the suspect, the suspect trying to escape. Moments later, the other carjacker returned, stabbed Furnival in the abdomen, then fled again. Despite a serious stab wound, Furnival held his man for police. The other carjacker was arrested later. Both perpetrators were sentenced to seven years in California state prison.

Lt. Col. Roger Furnival received a Soldier's Medal for his heroic actions during an attempted carjacking. Furnival was injured protecting the victim.

"Here's what went through my mind when I heard the woman scream, 'This is totally wrong and needs immediate action. If not me, then who? If not now, then when? If not here, then where?' It took less than a second to formulate these questions," Furnival said. "I learned to ask these questions as a second lieutenant in the Army Reserve. I had two distinct company commanders – Capt. Ron Moskowitz of the 63rd Regional Support Command and Capt. Grant White of the 96th RSC – who incorporated these questions into dealing with problem situations in their units. They are now both colonels, and therefore I believe they developed good standards in me – and their other troops."

(Staff Sgt. Hall is a staff member of the Belvoir Eagle. Andrea Wales contributed to this report)

Reserve soldiers and civilians assist local VFW

By Ms. Mary Lou Scala

When the local Veterans of Foreign Wars needed help with a special dinner, members of the Fort Hunter Liggett staff were more than glad to help.

Last October, Hunter Liggett staff volunteered to cook and serve dinner for 150 attendees at VFW Post 6849 in Spreckels, Calif. The veterans were hosting the commander of the California VFW.

"These Monterey County Veterans have done their part defending freedom around the world. This was a small way for us to show our appreciation," said Lt. Col. Steve Ackman, Fort Hunter Liggett commander and one of the volunteers.

The volunteers received a standing ovation for their efforts and praise from Arthur Harris, commander of the California VFW.

Volunteers from Hunter Liggett included military, civilian and family members.

(Ms. Scala is with the Fort Hunter Liggett Public Affairs Office)

812th excels at 1st Annual MP Rodeo

By 1st Lt. Stacey Martin

CAMP BUCKNER, NY—There were no ropes, steers, horses or cowboys present, but Camp Buckner nevertheless was the site of a rodeo one Saturday last fall. Soldiers from the 812th Military Police Company competed in the first annual Military Police rodeo, under the direction and guidance of Capt. Elizabeth Goode, company commander.

The competitors were tested in a variety of events including the Army Physical Fitness Test, maintenance, and weapons assembly and disassembly, with the last stop a written test.

(Above) Spec. Armando Lopez and Sgt. John Cherubini assist Spec. Brian Pullman as he pulls back the charging handle on his MK 19 during an event at their unit's first annual MP Rodeo. All three soldiers are assigned to the 812th Military Police Company, an Army Reserve unit from New York. (Left photo) Beronique Laurent (Left) and Victoria Robinson (Right), both of the 423rd Military Police Company, Uniondale, New York, attend a class at the 800th Military Police Brigade's Alpha Company. Here, they team up to master the skill of finding critical locations within a grid square based on an 8-digit grid coordinate.

Twelve teams of three participated at the Camp Buckner training facility at West Point. Soldiers ruck-marched over 6 miles around a lake, stopping at points along the way to be tested in each of the events. Not only were their skills tested, but many events were timed.

First platoon's Spec. Armando Lopez established the SAW disassembly record with a time of 50 seconds. Teammate Sgt. John Cherubini followed by assembling the weapon in a record 1 minute, 49 seconds.

The unit commander was quick to point out that the success of rodeo required support from outside of the unit. She was assisted by more than 30 evaluators, who served as graders as the teams made their way through the course. "Without them, this day would not have happened," she said.

The 812th was not alone in the woods of Camp Buckner; they were competing against two teams of military police assigned to West Point. Although their active duty counterparts fared well against the reservists, they were not able to snag the first-place spot and the 812th won overall. Points were awarded to each team for their performance at each event, which determined the overall results.

"The rodeo is a great way to unite soldiers' skills and build esprit de corps. The MP teams depend on each other as well as our support personnel, all of whom keep this unit together and make it a success, " commented Cpt. Goode.

MP Rodeo Results

FIRST PLACE: Team 9 - Sgt. John Cherubini, Cpl. Armando Lopez, Spec. Brian Pullman

SECOND PLACE: Team 3 - Staff Sgt. Rett Burroughs, Spec. Matthew Waterfield and Spec. Brent Satterfield from West Point

THIRD PLACE: Team 4 – Sgt. Isaac Cotto, Spec. Billie Lee, Private 1st Class Blair Genther, also West Point MPs

APFT: Team 4

Pre-Post Combat Checks: Teams 3, 4, and 8, Sgt. Patrick Davoli, Spec. Michael Schoonmaker, Spec. Marc Pellerito

Maintenance: Team 10 – Sgt. Stanley Galewaler , Cpl. Michael Burkard, Spec. Alvaro Leighton

NBC: Teams 3 and 9

Battle Drill 6: Teams 3, 8, 9, 10, and 12, Sgt. Leomar Simbre, Spec. Robert Sanabria, Private Jeffrey Velazquez

Weapons Disassembly and Assembly: Team 9

Exam: Team 4

Snapshots

Chaplain Ordained As Bishop

Photo courtesy of Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Eric Wester

Cardinal Francis George of the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago (left) introduces Bishop Jerry Listecky following his ordination as an auxiliary bishop in January. Bishop Listecky is also Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Listecky, U.S. Army Reserve. An Army Reserve chaplain for 19 years, Bishop Listecky has served in the 86th ARCOM and the 85th Division (Exercise) and is currently a chaplain for the Chicago based 330th Medical Brigade.

Making

Warrant Officer

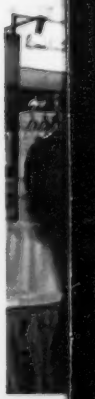
Chief Warrant Officer Three Joseph "Mike" Brown, an Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) soldier with the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC), was selected as the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association Warrant Officer of the Year 2000 recently. Along with his selection he also received the Chief Warrant Officer Four Albert M. Holcombe Memorial Award. He was nominated by the Vulcan Chapter, USAWOA, located in Birmingham, Ala. Brown retired from the military in February following 26 years of service.

Rendering Honors

Photo by Master Sgt. Vicki Washington

Sgt. 1st Class Keith Barlow renders a hand salute during the playing of the National Anthem. He is a member of the 91st Division Pipes and Drums. The unit performed during the Reserve Officers Association Mid-Winter Conference.

Taking



Maj. Ismael Sanabria takes aim at a computerized target to practice his marksmanship at an exhibitors display during the Reserve Officer Association Mid-Winter Conference. He is with the Public Affairs and Liaison Directorate, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve.

History

U.S. Army Photo

During the most unique change of command in the history of the 1st Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment (Attack), 4th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), and the 4th Infantry Division, Lt. Col. Michael N. Thome (center) became one of only four Reserve officers to take command of an Active Army unit.

"Songbird"

Photo by Master Sgt. Vicki Washington

Spec. Merita Leleua lifts her voice in song during a stunning solo performance of the National Anthem. The American Samoa native performed during the Reserve Officer Association Winter Conference held in Washington, D.C.

of the Year 2000

U.S. Army Photo

Selfless Service

Photo by Lt. Col. Randy Pullen

Maj. Gen. Paul Bergson, Military Deputy to the Deputy Under Secretary of the Army for International Affairs, holds the M-1 Garand rifle presented to him during an Army Section meeting at the Reserve Officers Association Mid-Winter Conference. The presentation was made to Bergson by Terry Anderson (left). Also looking on is Col. Ladd Pattillo, Vice President of the Army Section. Bergson was recognized for his selfless service and dedication to the Army and his fellow soldiers, which has enabled the Army Reserve to become a full partner with THE Army.

Aim

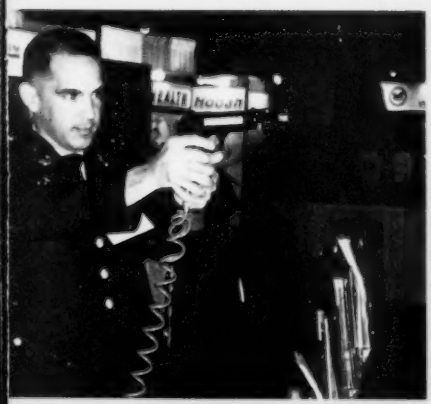


Photo by Master Sgt. Vicki Washington

CAR, from page 4

attack that hurt the 14th Quartermaster Detachment so grievously.

As I looked at the pictures of the 13 soldiers we lost in Dhahran, I saw men and women of different races, religions and family origins, some young and some not so young. They were all different but the Nation they had served, the uniform they had worn and the sacrifice they had made united them all.

I looked at those pictures and I knew what I was looking at. I was looking at America.

That's what you see when you see an Army Reservist, you see America.

We should all be proud of that. I am.

SMA, from page 15

sibilities are. Sometimes people are so worried about the next step they can't focus on the step that they're on. Worry about what your job is and allow other people to worry about what their job is and understand what your responsibility is."

"I tell people all the time that all I ever wanted to be was a Spec 4 in the Army. Sometimes people are so worried about what their next steps are that they can't do the job they are supposed to do. I've never worried about what the next step was. I've always wanted to be promoted just like everybody else, but I've always thought my responsibility, that my goal was to be focused on the people that I work with because that's a big responsibility and we sometimes lose sight of that."

One outcome of the conference has been the development of new NCO vision for the Army with five messages Tilley says he will take to the field. "Attendees chose these leader skills the Army needs today by consensus from among about 25 choices."

Those messages are: lead by example, train from experience, maintain and enforce standards, take care of soldiers and adapt to a changing world.

NCO Vision

An NCO Corps, grounded in heritage, values and tradition, that embodies the warrior ethos; values perpetual learning; and is capable of leading, training, and motivating soldiers

Effectively Counsels & Mentors Subordinates
Maintains an Outstanding Personal Appearance
Disciplined Leaders Produce Disciplined Soldiers

Sergeant Major of the Army Jack L. Tilley

Army Reserve acquires new satellite communication system

By Maj. Dave Acevedo

ATLANTA—The U.S. Army Reserve Command has received its first theater signal communications satellite system. This system provides instantaneous direct communication between units located half a world away.

The AN/TSC-94A (V) 1, the Department of Defense name for the satellite system, is self-contained and easily transportable. The satellite communications terminal is mounted on a four-wheeled trailer, which can deploy an eight or 20-foot antenna. The equipment and operator section is contained in a tactical shelter, providing the soldiers a controlled environment for operations.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Mark Woelflein

Spec. Benjamin Luke of the 335th Theater Signal Command inspects the new communications satellite system.

The communications suite provides the user up to 24 channels of secure communications transmission, and provides a wide spectrum of analog or digital data transmission capabilities. The terminal can operate on either generator power or standard 120 volt AC current.

The new system has been assigned to the 335th Theater Signal Command in East Point, Ga. The 335th provides signal and communications support to Third U.S. Army and Central Command in Southwest Asia.

"This new equipment will give us an expanded capability to conduct communications missions and support to the warfighter," said Col. Wayne Morgan, chief of staff for the 335th. "This gives Third Army a communications reach which was previously unavailable."

The new equipment also requires new personnel to operate it. The 335th is implementing a plan to stand up the 1st Signal Detachment (TACSAT) to support the equipment and mission. This element will consist of about two-dozen communications and support personnel, all qualified to man and operate the satellite communications terminal.

Recruiting for the positions is well underway, with a special emphasis on Military Occupational Skill 31S.

Once the detachment's ranks are filled, the 335th will start deploying the equipment to support Third U.S. Army in various exercises in the upcoming year. This year's training events include Roving Sands 2001, considered the world's largest air defense and communications exercise, held annually at Ft. Bliss, Texas and Bright Star 2002 in Egypt.

For information on joining the 335th contact Maj. Chris Ingle at 404-559-4626 or Sgt. 1st Class Shelton Nicholson at 404-559-5403. You can also visit their website at www.usarc.army.mil/335th.

(Maj. Acevedo is with the 335th Theater Signal Command)

GULFLINK, from page 9

Two-way communication with servicemembers, veterans and the general public will continue through GulfLINK at http://www.gulflink.osd.mil until the new web site is launched in the spring of 2001. Veterans can continue to contact the office via the toll-free direct hotline for veterans at (800) 497-6261.

(Ms. Berardocco is with the Office of the Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses)

FAX 703-806-6162
E-mail-carol.maze@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Ms. Barbara Stetler
Education Services Specialist
Cdr, 88th RSC (MN, WI, MI, IL, IN, OH)
ATTN: AFRC-CMN-PR-HRD
506 Roeder Circle
Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4009
Toll Free-1800-843-2769- Ext3081
Comm (612) 713-3081
FAX (612) 713-3677 or DSN 783-3677
E-mail-barbara.stetler@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Mr. Chuck Corbin
Education Services Specialist
Cdr, 70th RSC (WA, OR, ID)
ATTN: AFRC-CWA-PRH-C
4575 36th Ave West
Seattle, WA 98199-5000
Toll-Free-1800-347-2735
Comm (206) 281-3140
FAX (206) 301-2320
E-mail-charles.d.corbin@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Mr. Jack Bowman
Education Services Specialist
Cdr, 63d RSC (CA, NV, AZ)
ATTN: AFRC-CCA-PRS-R-SM
P.O. Box 3001
Los Alamitos, California 90720-5002
Comm (562) 795-2715/Toll Free 1800-978-5517 EXT 62715
FAX (562) 795-1371
E-mail-jack.bowman@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Mr. Nick Manetakis
Education Services Specialist
Cdr, 81st RSC (KY, TN, NC, SC, MS, AL, GA, FL)
ATTN: AFRC-ACH-PR-SMD
255 West Oxmoor Road
Birmingham, AL, 35209-3684
Toll Free-1-877-749-9063 EXT 1741
Comm (205) 795-1741
Fax (205) 795-1746
E-mail-nicholas.manetakis@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Mr. Robert Drake
Education Services Specialist
Cdr, 89th RSC (KS, NE, IA, MO)
ATTN: AFRC-CKS-RTD
3130 George Washington Blvd
Wichita, KS 67210-1598
Toll Free 1800-892-7266 Ext-1291
Comm (316) 681-1759, EXT-1291
FAX 316-652-2376
E-mail-Bob.Drake@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Dr. Michael Doyle
Education Services Specialist
Cdr, 90th RSC (AR, OK, NM, TX, LA)
ATTN: AFRC-CAR-CRE
8000 Camp Robinson Road
North Little Rock, AR 72118-2205
Toll Free-1800-501-1493 Ext 8705
Comm (501) 771-8705
FAX (501) 812-1290
Email-medoyle_72703@yahoo.com

Major Daniel Perrota
Education POC (AK, HI)
Cdr, IX RSC
ATTN: APIX-PE-S
1557 Pass Street
Ft. Shafter Flats
Honolulu, HI 96819-2135
COMM (808) 438-1600 Ext 3164
FAX (808) 438-5093
E-mail-perrottad@9rsc-usar.army.mil

Ms. Sandra Rogers
Education Service Specialist (PR)
Cdr, 65th RSC
ATTN: AFRC-APR-PRO
Fort Buchanan, PR 00934-5000
Comm (787) 707-2364
DSN 740-2363
FAX (787)-707-2409
E-mail-sandra.rogers@usarc-emh2.army.mil

MSG Vincent K. Pesola
Command Retention NCO/Education POC
HQ 7th ARCOM, Unit 29238
APO, AE Germany 09102
Ph: DSN 379-6546/7828
FAX: DSN 379-6147
Email-pesolav@hq.7arcom.army.mil

LTC Frank McDowell
Education POC
HQ U.S. Special Operation Command (USASOC)
ATTN: AOPE-RPS
Fort Bragg, NC 28307-5200
COMM (910) 432-8008
FAX (910) 432-8935
E-mail-mcdowelf@soc.mil

Mr. Rick Skinner
Military Personnel Specialist/Education
CDR, 412th Engineer Command
1265 Porters Chapel Road
Vicksburg, Ms. 39180
1-800-673-1051 EXT 123
COMM (601) 631-6123
Fax (601) 636-1422
E-mail-skinnerr@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Mr. Oscar Wilson
Instructional Systems Specialist
Director Army Education/Learning Center
Mr. Mike Christianson GS-11
Education Services Specialist
Ed Center/ARRTC Building 50 Room 123
50 South O Street
Ft. McCoy WI 54656-5137
COMM (608) 388-2420/7121/7105/7274
DSN (280) 2420/7121/7105/7274
FAX (608) 388-7183
E-mail-Oscar.wilson@arrtc-exch.mccoy.army.mil
Michael.Christianson@arrtc-exch.mccoy.army.mil

MSG James J. Barnette
Education POC
Cdr, 95th Division (IT)
ATTN: AFRC-TOK-CRO
5316 S. Douglas Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73150-9704
Comm (405) 419-1613
DSN 884-1613
FAX 405-419-8341
E-mail-barnettejj@usarc-emh2.army.mil

SFC Johnson
Div Retention NCO/Education POC
CDR, 108th Division (IT)
1330 Westover Street
Charlotte, NC 28205-5124
COMM 704-342-5105 or 1888-316-8455
FAX 704-342-5136
E-mail-clarence.johnson@se.usar.army.mil

1stLT Rodney Parker
Education POC
Hqs US Army Cadet Command
ATTN: ATCC-PS-R
55 Patch Road
Building 56
Ft. Monroe, VA 23651
COMM (757) 727-2782
DSN 680-2782
FAX (757) 727-2393
E-mail- parkerra@monroe.army.mil

MSG Candace McCreary
Div Sr. Retention NCO/Education POC
84th Div (IT) ATTN: AFRC-TWI-R
Milwaukee, WI 53218
COMM (414) 438-6141
FAX (414) 438-6101
E-mail- candace.mccreary@usarc-emh2.army.mil

Help preserve Army Reserve History

The United States Army Reserve Command (USARC) archives and museum activities are seeking donations of artifacts that pertain to your military career with the Army Reserve, and/or personal or unit significant historical papers pertaining to the history of the Army Reserve.

Some specific examples of such donations would be, but should not be limited to: uniforms, photographs, artwork, equipment, and memorabilia from the Spanish American War to the present (1898-2000);unit newsletters, magazines, journals, significant awards, and histories (from 1916 to present); Soldiers magazine (1945 to 1990); general officer personal papers; and significant documents from recent mobilizations and deployments (1990-present).

Those with historical papers, photos, and scrapbooks (archival material) should contact Ms. Deborah Foster-King at (800) 359-8483, extension 464-8461 or DSN 367-8461. Those with artifacts, uniforms, and memorabilia should contact Mr. Dave Hilkert at (800) 359-8483, extension 464-8465 or DSN 367-8465. Such gifts could be tax deductible.

*U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 2001-472-104-40001

WARRIOR, from page 29

emergency room. Throughout the event, Active Army and Reserve component evaluators of the 2/360th Training Support Battalion, 91st Division noted the procedures by the medics, firefighters and other soldiers – were their responses correct? Did they follow proper emergency procedures? Was security in place?

During Exercise Frontier Warrior 2000 soldiers participated in the Bosnia-style peacekeeping scenario in the fictitious country of Batania. More than 175 Reserve-component soldiers from eight Army Reserve and Army National Guard units had to deal with "local" civilian demonstrators, news media, politicians and other challenging situations that actual peacekeepers would encounter in a foreign country. The exercise included mock building fires, vehicle and air crashes, and hospital, history and public affairs operations, as well as personnel and resupply tasks.

"Frontier Warrior gives us a great opportunity to partnership between active, reserve, and National Guard units in a situational exercise that simulates a real-world scenario," said Lt. Col. Boyd Collins, 652nd Area Support Group director of operations. "Frontier Warrior 2000 was one of the first combat service support scenarios held on a drill weekend to include units from all Army components working together on mission accomplishment," noted Capt. Robert Kroeig, an active Army exercise director for the 2/360th.

Building upon the success of Frontier Warrior 2000, an even bigger exercise is planned for the future involving more Army Reserve and National Guard units throughout Montana and other western states.

(Staff Sgt. Conklin is with the 111th Press Camp, Montana Army National Guard, and Col. Drake is with the 652nd Area Support Group, Helena, Mont.)

EVENS, from page 52

such as the Leukemia Society, the Cancer Society, the Candlelighters, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which was a big support to our family."

The Make-A-Wish Foundation granted Evens a wish by sending him and his family on an all-expense paid trip to Disney World in December of 1998. Evens said although he enjoyed Disney World, he will never forget receiving a bat from Sammy Sosa and meeting the St. Louis Rams football team. He said he was excited about getting to meet the Rams and some of their cheerleaders.

Kathy added that during the recent Super Bowl between the St. Louis Rams and the Tennessee Titans, Evens sat in front of the television with his St. Louis Rams jersey and helmet on, which he wore all day. She said when the Rams won he was ecstatic and wore his Rams jersey to school the next day.

Just as the Rams had the courage to persevere against the Titans, so does Evens as he continues to persevere, encourage others, and conquer his deadly illness.

"I want everyone who helped me to know that I love them and I thank God for being with me because he helped me get through this and I feel a lot better now," said Evens as he placed his small arms around his mom and stepdad's neck and gave them both a big hug and kiss on the cheek.

(Sgt. Witherspoon is with the 81st Regional Support Command Public Affairs Office)

TRANSCOM, from page 49

Chief in a variety of official and ceremonial tasks. Although a long-time Reservist, Pair had not been on active duty since 1979 at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

These days, Pair is a familiar sight at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., a dozen miles outside of St. Louis. Most days, he can be seen walking the two blocks from his residence to the Transportation Command headquarters building. Once inside at a busy desk, Pair still finds time to walk around the building, coffee cup-in-hand, to talk to Transportation Command's people.

Pair hears employee concerns.

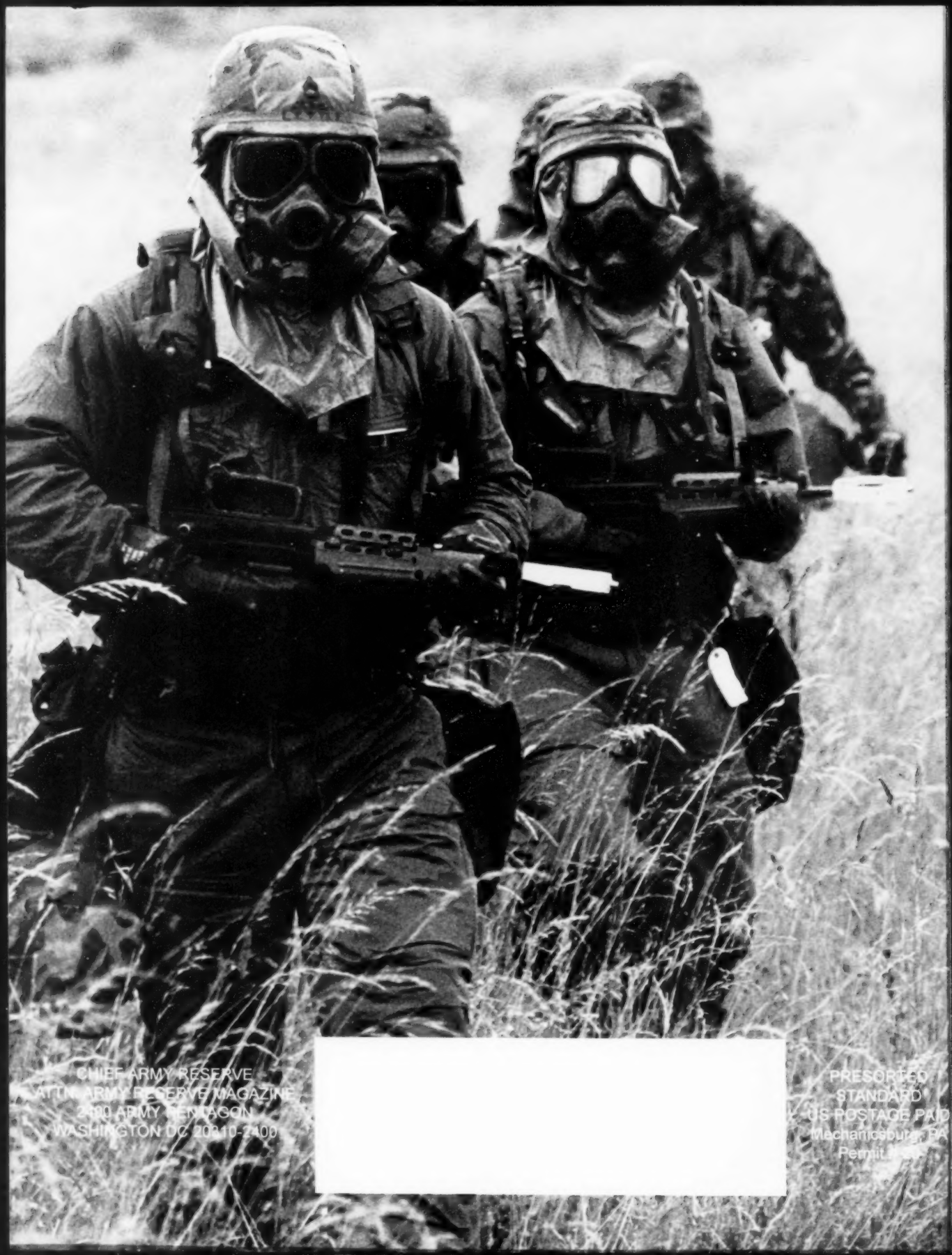
"This is a headquarters of people and processes – not machinery," said Pair. "We've got to pay attention to each equally. I am helping provide focus and fine-tuning to processes already working at an already top-notch headquarters."

People and work queue up to his desk. As an example, consider e-mail messages. Pair gets upwards of 60 e-mail messages a day – a figure that he says is growing.

Pair is a happy man. "For me," said Pair, "this is the right decision at the right time."

Scott Air Force Base is now home to Pair. Upon his selection, Pair and his wife, Jeannie, sold their home in Sylacauga.

Pair's assignment will run two years. His assignment is part of a Department of Defense program designed to place Reservists in positions of strategic significance.



CHIEF ARMY RESERVE
ATTN: ARMY RESERVE MAGAZINE
2400 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-2400

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
Mechanicsburg, PA
Permit #